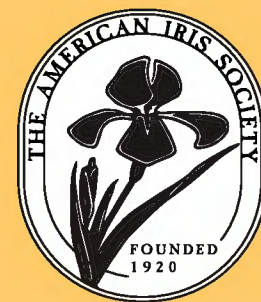


IRISES

The Bulletin of the American Iris Society



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WHAT A WINTER THIS HAS BEEN - SNOW IN UNLIKELY PLACES, FEBRUARY TORNADOS, THUNDERSNOW, PLUS BLIZZARDS THE LIKES OF WHICH I HAVEN'T SEEN IN YEARS. But, by the time you read this, spring will have sprung, flowering trees and shrubs will be in bloom and some of you

will be enjoying median irises, and even some early tall bearded in bloom. I can't wait.

The new AIS website was unveiled in February, and it was well worth the wait. The menu on the homepage makes it easy to see what's in each section by just rolling your cursor over each title, and the virtual slideshow in the center of the page makes visiting the website a new experience every time you visit. Spending time on the 'Photos and Puzzles' pages is fun. There you can view slideshows in the Gallery and Photo Contest sections and work jigsaw puzzles as well. If you haven't had time to visit and explore the website, I encourage you to do so. Thanks to John Jones and his team for their hard work in making our website "the best."

Speaking of the Photo Contest, congratulations to all of the winners and runners-up. There were 300 entries in last year's contest received from 65 adults and six youths.

In this day and age, social networking has become "the way" to stay in tune with what your friends, families, business associates, and organizations are doing. To keep up with the times, The American Iris Society is now on Facebook and Twitter. Links for these sites are on the AIS homepage. After joining either or both of these social networks, click "Like" on Facebook or "Follow" on Twitter to find out what's going on with your fellow irisarians. I must admit to being a Facebook "junkie" and thoroughly enjoy seeing the posts and pictures on the AIS page. Thanks to Andi Rivarola for setting this up.

The Iris Wiki continues to grow and attract visitors. As of January, the Wiki contained information about 32,036 irises and 21,000 images. Last May, 8,500 users accessed the Wiki and as word continues to spread, Wiki administrator Bob Pries anticipates reaching 20,000 this May. Click on "Iris Encyclopedia" on the AIS website to go to the Wiki.

The year 2020 will mark the 100th anniversary of our organization's founding. Although this may seem far in the future, it's not too early to begin thinking about ways to commemorate this milestone in our history. I have asked Publications Chair Jody Nolin to begin coordinating, planning, gathering ideas and finding members willing to be on the planning committee. If you have ideas and/or are interested in participating in the planning, contact Jody. Her contact information is in the directory in the back of this issue.

The grand prize winner of the recently held AIS fundraiser is Mary Townsend from Tom's River, NJ. Mary and her husband Ed receive two full registrations to the AIS convention in Victoria, Canada, plus five nights at the Fairmont Empress Hotel, the convention headquarters. The winning ticket was drawn from the several hundred entries on February 1 by AIS Treasurer Jill Bonino and Youth Chair Cheryl Deaton. Mary has been an AIS member for over 20 years and was recently appointed a Master Judge. I had the pleasure of calling her to let her know she was the winner and she was thrilled! I love to make "happy" calls like that. Congratulations Mary; we look forward to seeing you in May. ♣

AIS 2011 TALL BEARDED SYMPOSIUM

The ballot and instructions for voting the 2011 AIS Tall Bearded Symposium, as well as the results of the 2010 Symposium, are available on the AIS website at www.irises.org. On the website, click on About Irises, then Awards & Surveys, and Tall Bearded Symposium.

You can vote by:

- Mailing or emailing your RVP the list of irises you are voting for, or
- Downloading the list from the website, printing, marking and mailing it your RVP.
- Affiliate presidents, or designated persons, are encouraged to print the ballot and take it to a meeting prior to September 1 so that AIS members without internet access have the opportunity to vote.

You may vote for up to 25 varieties. No write-in votes will be tabulated. Your RVP must receive your ballot by September 1.

You can let your voice be heard by voting for your favorite Tall Bearded Irises.

FASHIONABLY LATE

NO MATTER HOW EARLY I START WORK ON EACH ISSUE, WHICH IS TO SAY THAT I NEVER REALLY STOP WORKING ON THE MAGAZINE SINCE THE PLANNING OF THE NEXT ISSUE ALWAYS OVERLAPS THE CURRENT ONE, I NEVER FEEL LIKE I'M AHEAD OF THE PROVERBIAL EIGHT BALL.

Like one of my favorite irises, I'd like to think that if I have to be late, I might as well do it fashionably. With any luck, after reading this issue, I hope you'll agree. Furthermore, I always begin these little notes with so much to say, quotes I want to share and a peek into the issue ahead—I never seem to have enough space. My mother can be proud for raising a chatty Midwesterner, I guess.

But on the subject of fashion, I've got a word (and a few after that) I'd like to share. I picked up this word while spending a night at Jim and Jean Morris's home last September. We were marveling at the meaning and origin of the word fallalery, the name given to a very lacy yellow tall bearded cultivar by Ben Johnson. As an image of its glitzy flowers colored my mind, I realized what a sucker I am for ruffles and lace. From Merriam-Webster: fallalery — a showy ornament, trinket, or article of dress.

Now as iris lovers, fallalery may seem exactly our business, fussing as we do over bud count, form and branching like doting handmaidens on a quest to better the world one beautiful flower at a time. As an iris-loving editor, I'm prone to much the same, only in the form of dangling modifiers, story ideas and photo resolution. The point is that despite looking good, our *Bulletin* can sport



substance just as well as it can style. My vision for an updated, sharper-looking, more glamorous spin on a gardening magazine doesn't sidestep the essence of our work—to provide high-quality content to a diverse audience about all facets of cultivating the genus *Iris*. This issue we've got hot topics in tow—the so-called warming trend overtaking the garden during Siberian bloom season. Paul Black wades into op-ed territory with a great article on bud count in standard dwarf bearded irises. Black plant collector and author Karen Platt took time to share a few of her top-favorite black irises. In the issues ahead, look for coverage on Louisianas, Evansias, spurias, and other unsung groups. Though this magazine may be a little late coming around to giving all these topics equal due, we'll hope to show them off in high fashion. Substance, after all, begets the liveliest of styles.

The nimble Fred Astaire said, "The higher up you go, the more mistakes you are allowed. Right at the top, if you make enough of them, it's considered to be your style." While a quote like this should make an editor cringe, I find it a humbling thought. Our flagship magazine has grown a lot over the last year, much as I imagine children do in the eyes of their parents; running away into the distance chasing the next of life's adventures. I look forward to that chase, even if I never catch up. ♣

Kelly

Connect with us!



Join the AIS crowd on Facebook!



editor@irises.org



Stay tuned for our newly revamped website
www.irises.org

AIS Insurance

BY MICHELLE SNYDER,
INSURANCE CHAIR

BELOW ARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE WHEN REQUIRED BY THE VENUE WHERE AN EVENT IS BEING HELD. Please be aware I DO NOT obtain the certificates of insurance for the local clubs, etc. It is the responsibility of the club, etc. hosting the event to obtain the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

To obtain a Certificate of Insurance go to www.irises.org. Click on the Member Services link and then click on AIS Insurance and you will be taken to the page that has the instructions for obtaining the necessary Certificate. The form can either be downloaded and faxed to the number shown or it can be completed electronically and sent via email.

There is a statement that says "Is Certificate Holder requested to be named as an additional insured?" If you only need to show proof of insurance, circle No. If the venue needs to be named as an additional insured, circle Yes.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either 928-282-5867, or my email address of sammygiz@aol.com.

How To Win A Photo Contest

BY JANET SMITH, AIS PHOTO CONTEST CHAIRMAN

THE 2011 PHOTO CONTEST IS NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES! Here are a few pointers that can make a difference if your photo is considered for competition:

1. Make sure the photo submitted is in focus.
2. Don't send a print when you have the original photo in digital format.
3. If you know how, make sure your digital photo is at 300 dpi. When in doubt, send it as it was from your camera.
4. Make sure your photo matches the category you are placing it in.
5. If you are filling out your photo contest form online, when finished, save it to your computer before sending it. Otherwise, a blank form will be forwarded.
6. Remember when in doubt, ask questions!



Facebook Update

BY ANDI RIVAROLA, AIS FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR

AIS'S FACEBOOK PAGE HAD ITS FIRST CONTEST IN JANUARY 2011. TO CELEBRATE OUR 500TH FAN, WE OFFERED EVERYONE A CHANCE TO WIN A FREE ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP TO THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY.

The rule for entry was very simple, we said: "All you have to do is write on our wall 'why irises are inspiring to you.' It's not a writing contest, just let us know how you feel about them, even a single word would qualify you. One winner will be chosen randomly..."

The entries received were very inspiring. Here's the winner Marsha Williams' entry, "Iris have always been a part of my life since I was born. During iris season and the first color photo I have is standing in my mother's iris beds. They are resilient yet charm with their delicate beauty. A heritage to pass down to my daughters and to be shared with friends both old and new." There were several other inspiring entries.

Hope you too can join the AIS Facebook Page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/theamericanirissociety>

FACEBOOK TIP

HOW TO SHARE A PICTURE ON THE AIS FACEBOOK PAGE:

To share (or re-share) a picture that we have posted, simply click on "Share" beneath the picture. The pop-up box that appears will automatically mention that you are sharing the picture via the AIS Facebook Page. After writing your own message to accompany the picture, click "Share" to post the picture to your profile. Every time you do this, it helps AIS spread its message, and thanks!

The American Iris Society 2011 Photo Contest

AIS INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST. THIS CONTEST IS FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CONTEST JUDGES AND THE CONTEST CHAIRPERSON WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO ENTER OR WIN. The winning photo of each category will be published in the AIS January Bulletin and on the AIS web site. Prior year's winners and honorable mentions can be viewed on the AIS web site at www.irises.org. The 2011 winner of each category will receive a 2011 introduction. The winner of each category will also receive a single annual membership or annual membership extension to AIS. Winners who are AIS life members will receive an annual membership in an AIS Section of their choice. Runners-up of each category will receive a 2009-2010 introduction.

HOW TO ENTER:

Simply fill out the entry form designating in which category you are entering your digital photos. Then send a CD or e-mail your digital (jpeg) photos to the AIS Photo Contest Chair, at the address below. You may submit up to five (5) photos in this contest. The deadline for submissions to the 2011 Photo Contest is June 30, 2011. (NOTE: Any photo submitted that was a winner in previous years will automatically be disqualified.)

Irises in photos should be of the genus *Iris*. Entries will be selected and judged in six (6) categories:

1. Irises used in a landscaped garden.
2. Irises in a field or home garden.
3. Events, tours, a person or people (at iris location), shows.
4. Close up of an iris or irises.
5. Iris photos with art effects, macro photos of bloom segments.
6. Photos of pets, wildlife or garden art in the irises.

***Any photos taken by a youth photographer (under 19) in any of the six (6) categories will be judged separately from the adult entrants.

Digital photos are preferred. Please do not send a print of your digital photo. If you only have prints, please do not send any smaller than 4 x 6 or larger than 5 x 7. We ask that your print submission be on photo paper. The digital photos should be saved as a 'jpeg' file. (Each image must be titled and numbered to match the entry form.) Make sure you identify the variety or person in each photo on the entry form. Please provide AIS with a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the prints returned. Prints will otherwise not be returned and may be destroyed when not selected.

A panel of three judges will judge the photos received and their decisions will be final.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR PHOTOS AND ENTRY:

Prints, CDs, and entry form:

The American Iris Society Photo Contest
c/o Janet Smith,
P O Box 1585, Coarsegold, CA 93614-1585

Digital:

Email jpgs & entry form to AISPhotoContest@irises.org

ENTRY FORM:

Category #, photo caption name(s) and names of persons in photos, if any (for reference purposes)

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

#4 _____

#5 _____

Youth: If this is a youth entry, please tell us your age: _____

I am the person who took the photograph(s) enclosed, and I have not assigned any of my rights associated with these photographs to any third party. By entering the photo contest I am hereby authorizing The American Iris Society a royalty free, non-exclusive right to use winning photograph(s) and photograph(s) worthy of honorable mention in publications, in brochures, and calendars, on the Internet, and for other promotional uses. (Forms submitted by email do not require actual signature. By filling in the information in this form including the information below, either fully or partially, and submitting the form by email, you grant the American Iris Society the rights specified in the paragraph above).

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

(Receipt of photos will be acknowledged by email. Please provide a SASE if you want a receipt by mail.)

SEND INQUIRIES TO AISPHOTOCONTEST@IRISES.ORG

This form may be completed on-line, saved, and printed. If emailing jpgs, also attach your completed form with your entry.

COME SOUTH TO VISIT THE
**NEW ZEALAND IRIS SOCIETY
2011 CONVENTION**
IN NELSON NEW ZEALAND



4th to 8th November 2011

Your hosts the Nelson Iris Group.

See the NZ Society website for further information.



www.nziris.org.nz

**ATTENTION DIRECTORS
OF INTERNATIONAL
IRIS COMPETITIONS**

Please send all pertinent requests and results directly to the editor at editor@irises.org.

**Congratulations To Mary Townsend of Toms River,
New Jersey For Winning the 2011 AIS Fundraiser!**

Mary and her husband Ed Townsend will be the recipients of The Grand Prize, which is two full registrations to the 2011 Canada Convention and 5 nights at the Fairmont Empress Hotel, a value of \$1,400. Mary is a Master Judge in Region 3.

Seedling Trial Gardens Update!

BY PAUL ARCHER, INDIANA

WE NOW HAVE 10 MEMBERS TOTAL, SOME OF THEM HYBRIDIZERS. As of yet I only have a few submissions for a few seedlings from one hybridizer (Anita Moran). Obviously to make the project more worthwhile, we would need more seedlings to trial.

I would like to call out to anyone who would like to submit seedlings they have been considering for introduction and want to give it a try. You get the added benefit of not taking up your garden space to increase it since you get all of your plant material back should you decide you want it back.

I would also like to invite more trialers as well. We could use more trailers in the southeast, Deep South, and southwest for all iris classes.

SO HERE IS HOW IT GOES...

Contact me at myirisdreams@earthlink.net, and I'll email you the profile form(s) to fill out. You can look them over. They aren't tedious or long, but give us the information we need to make

effective decisions on where to send the plants for trialing.

This spring, hybridizers will go through their seedlings and select those they feel would be good for trialing or registration. These are not maiden bloom seedlings and maybe not even second-year seedlings, although exceptions are possible.

Once I have received all trailer profiles, I will email (or snail-mail) them out to all hybridizers in June. The hybridizers will select who and where they want their seedlings to go to, or I can select for you based on your goals.

Hybridizers will need to have the seedling profile form(s) and the plants to me by August 1. You may also choose to send them directly to the trailer instead. I would still need the forms though to keep track of who has what and how many of their slots each trialer has used. Then Hybridizers can «sit back» and wait for the data to come in while their plants are doing their thing.

Trialers simply need to fill out

their profile form and send it back to me so you can receive at least three plants appropriate for your growing conditions. They may be from well-known hybridizers, new breeding lines, colors, forms, interspecies hybrids, etc. All you would need to do is plant them, document their progress and complete their seedling profile form for at least three years. It's not a long form and you only have small portions to fill out each year of the trial. You can use their pollen for your own hybridizing while you trial them, and you get to keep some plants too when the trial is finished.

If you want to take an active part in the direction (or redirection) of irises, this is your chance to be part of a large scale and organized group by simply doing what you are already doing and just recording it.

Each year I will be sending out updates for the *Bulletin*, and we can all see how our trials compare. Complete transparency! How often do you find that nowadays?

Request For Bearded & Beardless Iris

AIS Convention: Dallas 2013

THE IRIS SOCIETY OF DALLAS, DALLAS, TEXAS WILL HOST THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION APRIL 15-20, 2013. Hybridizers are invited to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings of bearded irises under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises.

1. Up to four rhizomes of each variety will be accepted.
2. The guest irises will be accepted from August 15 through September 30, 2011.
3. Guest irises shipped by United States Postal Service (USPS), or by United Parcel Service (UPS) to:
Hooker Nichols
3365 Northaven Road
Dallas, Texas 75229
4. The name of the variety, or seedling number, should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each plant on a separate packing list:
 - a. Hybridizer's name and address
 - b. Name or seedling number of the variety
 - c. Type of iris (TB, BB, IB, AB, SDB, etc.)
 - d. Height, color, and bloom season (EML)
 - e. Year of introduction (if introduced)
5. If a guest seedling is named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairperson no later than December 1, 2012.
6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the distribution of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 2013 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and distribute named varieties, one to the garden owner and the rest to the Iris Society of Dallas plant sale. All official guest plants will be returned freight paid, except for foreign addresses.
7. The Convention Committee and the owners of tour gardens will strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.
8. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only irises received through the Guest Iris Chairperson will be listed in the Convention Booklet.

Looking for something?

At their November 2010 meeting, the AIS Board of Directors voted to remove several business-related items of the Society from the pages of *Irises* and relocate them to the AIS website, a more cost-effective venue for their publication. The list below includes links to these items and their new location online.

START AT THE AIS WEBSITE (WWW.IRISES.ORG) AND CLICK THROUGH THE PATHS SHOWN BELOW:

AIS Insurance Notice > Member Services/Insurance

AIS Exhibition Reports > Member Services/Exhibition Reports

AIS List of Approved Judges > Member Services/Society Information/AIS Documents

AIS Tall Bearded Symposium Report > About Irises/Awards & Surveys/Tall Bearded Symposium

IF YOU'D LIKE TO FIND COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ONLINE, FEEL FREE TO USE THESE LINKS:

AIS Treasurer's Report > Member Services/Society Information/Minutes and Financials

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes > Member Services/Society Information/Minutes and Financials

Information about advertising > Resources and Iris Links/How To Get Listed On AIS Website

Information about donation > About AIS/Membership Information/Donations



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Fall Board Meetings

2011: NOV 4 - 6
ATLANTA, GA

Chair: Carolyn Hawkins

7329 Kendel Court
 Jonesboro, GA 30236-2512
 (770)855-4248; <carolyn9999@comcast.net>

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Errata:

Patricia Norton kindly emailed us to point out an error in the address associated with her award-winning photo on page 47 of the January issue. Patricia was the runner-up in the 'Close-Up of an Iris' category and is from South Portland, Maine not Catawissa, Pennsylvania. Our deepest apologies for this oversight.

Aril Society International

www.arilsociety.org



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Milestones

COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI

I NORMALLY START THIS COLUMN WITH SOME NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL MILESTONES BEFORE BRINGING IT HOME TO OUR IRIS SOCIETY. Two years ago I visited the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY for the first time in my life. For a fan of our grand old game, it is an impressive place. A January 1936 vote (75 years ago) by the Baseball Writers Association of America elected the first inductees, Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Honus Wagner, Walter Johnson and Christy Mathewson. Surprisingly, Cobb out-pollled Ruth, receiving the most votes – 222 of a possible 226. The Hall of Fame didn't open until 1939.

And it was 100 years ago when a baseball sports announcer and former lifeguard from Dixon, IL—Ronald “Dutch” Reagan—was born in the Dutch community of Tampico, IL. The “great communicator” would go on to be a movie star, governor of California and our 40th president of the United States. Who could ever forget his famous speech, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall,” while addressing Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev? Or, after being shot in March of 1981, his “Honey, I forgot to duck;” “All in all, I'd rather be in Philadelphia;” and to his surgeons, “Please tell me you're all Republicans.”

AIS MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

I thought it might be interesting to give some attention to those folks with the most **continuous**

membership in AIS by Region (when the AIS membership list was last prepared). Here goes: Region 1, James Ashe, 53 years; Region 2, James and Ruth Burke, 41; Region 3, Walter Robbins, 53; Region 4, Nancy Karriker, 51; Region 5, Rev. and Mrs. Lineberger, 48; Region 6, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cooper, 56; Region 7, Susan Pope, 52; Region 8, Donald Briggs, 48; Region 9, Steve Varner, 57; Region 10, Mrs. Charles Arny, 62; Region 11, Robert Youngstrom, 57; Region 12, Merlin Tams, 54; Region 13, Jean Witt, 64; Region 14, Philip Edinger, 60; Region 15, **Mrs. Marion Walker, 73 years;** the ex-Region 16 (Canada), Verna Laurin 55; Region 17, Mrs. V e r n o n K e e s e e , 48; Region 18, Dave Niswonger & Helen Reynolds, 58; ex-Region 19 (combined with Region 3 effective January 1, 2011), Mr. and Mrs. Reeves, 54; Region 20, Don Mackendrick, 50; Region 21, Eugene Newburn, 52; Region 22, Richard Morgan, 59; Region 23, Irene Shockey, 54; Region 24, Joe Langdon, & Mrs. VanValkenburgh, 50; and, Foreign, Sidney Linnegar & Tomas Tamberg, 41. Congratulations to them all and especially to our longest continuous living member, Dorothy Walker, wife of past AIS president (1956-59) Marion Walker!

REMEMBERING SALT-OF-THE-EARTH MEMBERS

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Barbara F. Nelson**, 97, of Lafayette, LA and Collinsville, AL, on December 13, 2010. Barbara was married to Dr. Ira S. Nelson, horticulture professor at Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now the University of Louisiana-Lafayette) and was active in the Society for Louisiana Irises since its founding.

She was born September 21, 1913 in Shawnee, OK and raised in Wichita, KS. They said the ball always bounced her way and she was an All-American basketball player at Friends University in Wichita from which she graduated

“We're born, we live a little, then we die. Life's a very funny proposition after all.” (unknown)

with a BA degree. She retired from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette College of Agriculture where she worked as an instructor and librarian in the Horticulture Department.

Barbara Nelson was known in AIS as the co-author with hybridizer Charles Arny of Chapter 12, The Louisiana Irises, in The World of Irises (edited by Bee Warburton and Melba Hamblen), published in 1978. Barbara wrote extensively about Louisiana irises, drawing from her swamp collecting trips, membership in the Mary Swords Debaillon Iris Society, forerunner of the Society for Louisiana Irises—whose members

In Memoriam

were the early collectors and hybridizers of these beautiful irises—and her and her husband's own research into the iris species and forms. That was during a period in the 1940s and 1950s of great learning about one of our Native American flowers, its five species and their hybrids. She is a past president of the Society for Louisiana Irises and the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research.

Three Louisiana irises are named for her: 'Barbara Nelson' (I. Nelson, 1951, unregistered), 'Mrs. Ira Nelson' (Arny, 1969) and 'Professor Barbara' (Mertzweiller, 1992).

AIS Life Member **Marjorie Starkey** (1923 – 2011) of Akron, MI in Region 6, passed away at age 87 while in assisted living. An AIS master judge, she was a member of various iris organizations including the Society for Siberian Irises, the Society for Japanese Irises, the Spuria Iris Society, the Aril Society International and the Society for Louisiana Irises. She served as president for twelve years of the Florida Iris Society. She was also on the convention committee for the AIS Convention in Atlanta, GA, in 1992. She and her husband John or "Jake," a long-time farmer, were married for 46 years.

We also note the passing of British Iris Society member **Jack Grint** on January 22, 2011; **Jeffrey J. Kurtzeman**, 68, avid photographer and webmaster for Sun Country Iris Society in Phoenix, AZ, December 22, 2010 at Kirksville, MO; and, **Betty Jean Schroder**, 79, of Palo Verde, AZ on February 2, 2011, who was also a valued member of the Sun Country Iris Society of Region 15. ❀

Julie Lynn

(Hazelton 2011)
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Vicki and James Craig

Section Happenings

BY JIM MORRIS, SECTION & COOPERATING SOCIETIES LIAISON, MISSOURI

I'M BACK. My last column was in the October 2010 issue when I announced my "*au revoir*" because my term of office as a director would expire at the fall AIS board meeting. Well, guess what? The board elected me to the second vice-president position and President Judy Keisling asked me to continue in my old role.

I continue to be impressed by, and sometimes admittedly jealous of, the quality of iris-related material being printed by our various Sections and Cooperating Societies. Sometimes this material deserves a broader audience than it has in their publications. This sometimes results in reprints or excerpts in regional and national publications such as *Irises* or those of the British, New Zealanders and Aussies.

Among the excellent material printed recently was the meticulously researched '*Amas and Macrantha*, [sic] *The Gordian Knot Untied*' by Anner Whitehead in the SIGNA Winter 2010 issue. This 17 page article lists two pages of sources! Whitehead takes to task the AIS 1929 and 1939 Check Lists and other confusing material on the subject. She gently chides Clarence Mahan in *Classic Irises*, 2007 in his writing that before Foster "renamed" the plant "Amas," he "first called [it] '*Iris macrantha*,'" by saying, "I have seen no primary document which suggests this." When contacted for comment, Clarence had this to say, "After reading Anner's article I think her statement is fair. I think I may have reached the wrong conclusion. I fear I was somewhat misled by Dykes book *Irises* (1911),

pg. 36. I commend Anner for her detailed research." It should be noted that Clarence was recovering from a medical condition and couldn't get to his notes or research papers at the time. Whitehead's essay: "...offers a provisional documentary history of *I. germanica* var. *Amas* Foster, and *I. germanica macrantha* Leichtlin, which some have considered synonyms, and others have not." This essay should be read and re-read by scholars of the genus *Iris*. It is an interesting read.

DUES, POSTAGE, NEW WEB SITE, WIKI, FACEBOOK AND E-MEMBERSHIP

The challenge posited to our foreign friends of high dues and postage costs in our mailing the *Bulletin* will be alleviated by the viability of the newly revised AIS web site www.irises.org and the smokin' successes of the AIS Encyclopedia (wiki) and AIS Facebook page. The number of topic views or "hits" on our wiki is impressive and growing every day. We are talking 197,545 hits for December 2010!! When the e-membership (with much lower membership rates because member signees will receive electronic versions of the *Bulletin* [only] alleviating the necessity of postage expense) is fully implemented this year—and it is coming as the membership voted on a bylaws change allowing it prior to this issue—we should see a dramatic increase in iris enthusiasts signing up and thus the number of print bulletins will decrease. It will become much more attractive

to our foreign friends because information within the publication will become instant instead of months away. The future looks bright in the long term as AIS may have found its way out of the wilderness of recent deficit budgets and of the decreasing membership trend of the past ten years. Time will tell, but many of us are cautiously optimistic.

SECTION AND COOPERATING SOCIETIES MEETING - CONVENTION 2011

The Sections/Cooperating Societies are also working towards e-membership. The first to fully implement it was SPCNI in 2010 followed by SIGNA in the winter of 2010. E-membership will be just one of the topics on the agenda during the AIS Section and Cooperating Societies meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 30, 2011 at the AIS convention in Victoria, B.C., Canada. *Section/Cooperating Society presidents, editors and membership chairmen* are requested to attend. Please make sure they all are notified and that your group is represented.

FUTURE MINI-CONVENTIONS

Society for Japanese Irises

June 24-25, 2011

Portland, OR, with three gardens on tour

Society for Siberian Irises/SIGNA

June 7-9, 2012

Lansing, MI

Society for Louisiana Irises

April 2012

Shreveport, LA ♣

Youth Views

BY CHERYL DEATON, CALIFORNIA

THE RESULTS ARE IN FROM THE ANNUAL AIS COLORING CONTEST! OVERALL WINNER WAS SARAH M. GREEN, AGE 13, FROM REGION 21.

The judges were intrigued with her use of cotton to mimic clouds in the sky, and also the use of glitter to provide texture to the earth portion of the picture. Her entry was also voted Most Original, first place in her age group 13 to 15 years old and was given a Creativity Award as well. Congratulations Sarah! You can view her winning entry on the AIS website, www.irises.org.

OTHER WINNERS WERE:

In the 6 years old and under category, first place - **Katharina Brase**, Region 21

In the 7 to 9 years old category, first place – **Rebekah Brase**, Region 21

In the 10 to 12 years old category, first place – **Sherilyn Foster**, Region 1

There were no entries in the 16 years old and up category.

There were a total of 33 entries from Regions 1, 6, 8, 17, 18, and 21. All participants received cash prizes. Congratulations to everyone who entered.

The next contest for AIS Youth members is the Ackerman Essay Contest. This year's topic, "Why I Have Iris On My Mind" should provide plenty of creative ideas for our youth. With snow on the ground and catalogs arriving from the hybridizers, what irisarian doesn't have irises on their mind? Since the

deadline for entries is March 31st, I do not know the winners at press time. I will announce the winners at the AIS Awards Banquet in Victoria, British Columbia. Cash prizes are awarded to the winning entry in the 12 years old and under category, and the 13 years old and up category. The Ackerman Essay contest is sponsored by the AIS Foundation. The winning essays will be published in a future Youth Views column.

Nominations have been received and the judges are deliberating for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. This annual award is presented at the AIS National Convention Awards banquet. Watch this space for the announcement in the July issue of *Irises*.

I hope all of you will consider sponsoring a youth for membership in The American Iris Society. Yearly youth dues are only \$5 without *Irises* or \$9 with *Irises*. Everyone I know always has an extra rhizome or two that they can share with a young person. Do you know of a youth group that might want to help beautify their community? Consider sponsoring them with membership in AIS. 4-H groups, high school horticulture classes, and scout troops are great places to start an iris group. Contact me for information or check out the youth website, www.youth-iris.com. It's a great time to encourage youth to grow a garden. You'll be glad you gave the "Iris Virus" to a young person. ❀



Overall winner of the AIS Coloring Contest: Sarah M. Green, age 13, Region 21

EVERY SO OFTEN WE SEEM TO TRY TO COME UP WITH REASONS FOR WHY SOMEONE SHOULD JOIN AIS. Usually this begins with a list of benefits—like the *Bulletin*, the most obvious—and many other, more arcane perks. If you think about it, this list can grow quite long. But somehow I feel this misses the most important point—if you love irises you *should* belong.

If you truly love irises, it is necessary to support the network that makes them accessible, promotes their culture, and provides the information that sustains their existence and popularity. Today with the Internet, we often assume that we have all the connectivity we need. If we belong to a local club, maybe that's enough. But individual and local efforts can mean very little unless they are connected to something larger. I am reminded

part of the picture, belonging to AIS means you are connected to the entire so-called "Iris World." That favorite cultivar, which you've been growing for years and may have disappeared from the local gardens, may be just the plant that someone hundreds of miles away remembers nostalgically and would love to have again. If you are both AIS members, it is possible the plant may get there.

We all understand banding together to promote the common good. There are battles that still need to be fought and perhaps won if we utilize the strength of our larger group. In the 1920s, it was almost impossible to collect or trade irises. The same names were being used for different plants and the same plant often had different names. The international registration system

Why Am I an AIS Member?

BY ROBERT PRIES, NORTH CAROLINA

of the question "If a tree falls in the forest and there is no one there to hear it, does it make a sound?" The answer is "Does it matter?" If you are growing irises and do not belong to a local club who sees them? Neighbors, friends? Even if you have a beautiful garden, does it matter?

Only other gardeners can fully appreciate your accomplishment. Of course we all grow things for our own enjoyment, but that enjoyment is enhanced when we can share the beauty with others.

Belonging to a local club can help us show off our work to people at shows, presentations and garden tours. It lets us see what others have done to our own inspiration, but even that is still limiting. Everything you do has greater value when it is connected to a larger group.

Every iris you grow is being preserved for posterity, at least for as long as you grow it or until you share it with someone else. Even though the local club is

has changed this. The AIS is the registrar for most irises, but the battle is never quite won. There are still people promoting plants under any name they like, and the AIS still must work at keeping things straight. You would find it sad, if you purchased two supposedly

different plants and they both turned out to be the same and not what you wanted. The registration process and a strong organization like AIS keep this type of thing from happening.

There are many goals the AIS can work towards that will make our iris experiences better, but the smaller and weaker the society, the less effective it is in promoting these goals. When I hear somebody ask "Why join AIS, what is in for me?" I believe they are asking the wrong question. What is in it for you and all of us together? We ensure that irises will be here for ourselves and for the next generation. Alone, we are the tree that fell in the forest. ♣

If you truly love irises, it is necessary to support the network that makes them accessible, promotes their culture, and provides the information that sustains their existence and popularity.

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In Your Backyard

What's happening in your garden? A reader-driven feature in *Iris*!
Submit your stories and photos to the editor for future inclusion in this segment!

Izidor Golob, Slovenia

Strange Iris Form: A Letter from Slovenia

SOME HYBRIDIZERS AND GROWERS DISLIKE SPACE-AGERS AND FLAT FORMS, BUT FOR ME THEY ARE VERY INTERESTING BECAUSE OF THEIR LACK OF SIMILARITY WITH THE CLASSICAL BEAUTY OF BEARDED IRISES.

Besides the few space-age cultivars I grow, I've selected a space-age iris from my own seedlings, and it might get registered, too. I find it worthwhile to observe outstanding seedlings for more than three or four years so I can be sure of all their good qualities. Here's the story of my seedling T-13/KM.

I made a cross in May 2006 using 'Imprimis' (Blyth, 1991), an unusual and interestingly colored cultivar as the pod parent. I took pollen from a seedling (('Dance With Me' x 'Going My Way') X 'Sopra Il Volcano'). From a small population of seedlings, I selected only this plant in May 2009, when I discovered it and admired its unusual form and color. I took some pictures on that occasion too. The color is a dull mixture of pink shades, with vivid mandarin orange beards and undulated rims.

The form was nearly the same in all flowers of the stalk, suggesting it was genetically stable. I observed six to seven styles on most flowers. I got not usable pollen the first year and so I tried use it as pod plants, but with little success. I was lucky in 2010 and I used this monster flower for crossing both as a pod and pollen parent. A small crop of seeds are now in germination, and I am waiting for new surprises.

In closing, I suppose I am the only member of AIS from Slovenia (see an earlier article of mine in the April 2008 issue of the AIS *Bulletin*), the small country between Italy and Austria. The climate here is pretty advantageous for growing a few sections of the genus *Iris*. Even some domestic species (*I. graminea*, *I. sibirica*, *I. pseudacorus*, *I. pallida* ssp. *illyrica*) appear wild here. In my age I don't have special goals in iris hybridization, but I am proud to select some cultivars that prosper in this region. Internationally, I work often as judge in Florence, Italy. ♣



Cheryle Bigelow, Washington

No Spilled Sand Here



“THE REASON WE GROW IRISES ARE TO SHOW THEM”, SAID MY FRIEND AT A MEETING OF THE PIERCE COUNTY IRIS SOCIETY. Her comment gave me a different perspective on entering in the competition at our annual iris show. I had begged off, year after year, from submitting blooms from my garden. I am not competitive, do not like to cut any of the flowers in my garden and have never been interested in learning how to arrange blossoms in the confines of a container. But my husband and I try to do more than just pay dues and show up. We contribute in other ways to the functions and affairs of the club. Our garden was on tour for the Region 13 Spring Meeting in 2008. We appreciate, beyond measure, the fellowship of the members and their willingness to share their knowledge with contagious enthusiasm.

When I flipped through the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials for guidance on the criteria for showing iris, the chapter covering English Boxes caught my eye. Several friends in our club had mentioned interest in submitting an English Box but many of the newer members, including me, had never seen one in competition.

I borrowed a box from our club’s stock of show containers, brought it home and contemplated how to put together an English Box display. The only thing that concerned me was how to position the sand filled containers precisely under the holes. I had visions of tipping over the containers at the show, spoiling the

tablecloth and ruining the blooms. Show officials do not award a ribbon for that kind of display! Let me share an idea I had on how to prevent my ineptness from disqualifying my future English Box entry.

I rescued a ½-pint canning jar from a shelf in the laundry room, removed the seal but put the lid band back on the jar and stuck the jar under one of the holes in the borrowed English Box. It fit perfectly. “Now,” I thought “if I could glue the band to the underside of the box (about 4 inches high) around each hole, I could fill the jar with wet sand and screw it on.”

I shared the concept with a couple of friends from the Pierce County Iris Society, and I got a better reception than I do from my husband when I describe some wild idea. My brother by marriage builds and sells furniture he designs especially to fit the American Girl doll and he has a fully equipped woodshop. He agreed to construct an English Box for me incorporating the canning jars, but he recommended attaching the lid bands with little flat head screws instead of glue for durability. I supplied the jars and a copy of the instructions for construction of an English Box from the handbook and he generously supplied the wood from his own inventory.

I took the English Box to our next meeting to see if our design would pass muster with show judges and got a “thumbs up” from one of the distinguished judges in our group. ♣

AIS 2011 Convention Victoria, BC Canada

Tentative Meeting Schedule

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2011

8:00am–8:00pm Registration
 8:00am–8:00pm Set-Up
 1:00pm–11:00pm AIS Board Of Directors Meeting
 (Break 5:00pm–6:30pm, Dinner)

MONDAY, MAY 30, 2011

8:00am–9:00am RVP Reception
 8:00am–7:00pm Registration & Display Setup
 8:00am–6:00pm Boutique
 8:00am–6:00pm B.C. Iris Silent Auction Setup
 9:00am–10:30am RVP Meeting
 10:30am–11:30am Judges' Training Chairpersons Meeting
 11:30am–12:30pm Historic Iris Preservation Society Board Meeting
 1:00pm–2:00pm Spuria Iris Society Board Meeting
 2:00pm–3:00pm Affiliated Society Meeting
 3:00pm–4:00pm Dwarf Iris Society Board Meeting
 4:00pm–5:00pm SIGNA–Species Iris Group of N.America Board Meeting
 5:00pm–6:00pm Society For Siberian Irises Board Meeting
 6:00pm–7:30pm Reblooming Iris Society Board Meeting
 6:00pm–7:30pm AIS Foundation Meeting
 6:00pm–10:00pm Boutique Opens
 6:00pm–10:00pm B.C. Iris Silent Auction Opens
 7:30pm–8:30pm AIS Section Representatives
 8:30pm–10:00pm AIS Board Of Directors Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2011

8:00am–9:00am Region 13 Board Meeting
 8:00am–9:00am Reblooming Iris Society Program
 9:00am–10:00am Spuria Iris Society Program
 9:30am–10:30am BCIS Meet and Greet other BCIS members in the Library
 10:00am–11:00am Median Society Program
 11:00am–12:00pm Society for Louisiana Irises Program
 11:00am–12:00pm Welcome First Time Attendees
 12:00pm–1:00pm Bus Captains' Meeting
 1:00pm–5:00pm Butchart Garden Tour
 5:15pm Cash Bar
 5:30pm Welcome Dinner
 7:15pm Cash Bar, Reception, Welcome program
 8:30pm–9:30pm Youth Reception

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2011

9:00am–3:30pm Garden Tours
 4:00pm–4:30pm Bus Captains' Meeting
 4:00pm–5:00pm Region 13 General Meeting
 9:00pm B.C. Iris Silent Auction bids close
 5:00pm–6:00pm Society For Japanese Irises Program
 5:30pm–7:00pm Youth Party
 5:30pm–10:30pm Simulated Flower Show
 7:00pm–10:00pm SIGNA (Species Iris Group) Program
 9:00pm–10:30pm Past, Present, Future Convention Chairpersons' Meeting

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2011

7:00am B.C. Iris Silent Auction Winning Bids Posted
 9:00am–3:30pm Garden Tours
 4:00pm–5:00pm Bus Captains' Meeting
 4:30pm–6:00 p Registration
 4:30pm–5:30pm Tall Bearded Program
 5:30pm–6:30pm Dwarf Iris Society Program
 5:30pm–6:30pm BCIS Meet and Greet other BCIS members in the Library
 5:30pm–9:00pm B.C. Iris Silent Auction Pickup
 7:00pm–8:30pm The Ethics of Judging
 Trainer: Jean Morris, Ballwin MO
 8:45pm–10:15 Siberians
 Trainer: Bob Hollingworth, Lansing MI

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011

9:00am–12:00pm Garden Tours
 12:30pm–1:30pm Bus Captains' Meeting
 1:00pm Deadline For Ballots
 1:00pm–2:00pm Society For Siberian Irises Program
 2:00pm–3:00pm Pacific Coast Native Iris Program
 3:00pm–4:00pm Historic Iris Preservation Program
 4:00pm–5:00pm Aril Society International Program
 6:15pm–8:00pm Cash Bar
 7:30pm–9:30pm Awards Banquet
 9:30pm–11:00pm Awards Presentation

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011

Optional Tour to Salt Spring Island

CONVENTION PROGRAMS

ARIL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL – Lowell Baumunk –
 “Introduction to Arils and Arilbreds”

SOCIETY FOR PACIFIC COAST NATIVE IRISES – Debby Cole –
 “Introduction to SPCNI”

SOCIETY FOR LOUISIANA IRISES – Ron Killingsworth –
 “Growing, Hybridizing and Evaluating LA Irises”

MEDIAN IRIS SOCIETY – Terry Aitken –
 “Rebloom Breeding with Medians”

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY – Nancy Price – “Spuria Iris”

HIPS – Jean Richter – “Tips on Looking at Historic Iris”

SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES – John Coble –
 “Preview to the 2012 Siberian Convention”

REBLOOMING IRIS SOCIETY – Chuck Chapman –
 “What is a Rebloomer?”

SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES – John Coble –
 “A History of JI Conventions (1985-2008)”

SIGNA – Carla Lankow and Jean Witt –
 “Beardless Wide Crosses - Past, Present and Future”

DWARF IRIS SOCIETY – Dorothy Willott –
 “Dwarf Irises in the Rock Garden and Border”

AIS TALL BEARDED PROGRAM – Barry Blyth –
 “Where to From Here or Oh to Be 25 Again!”

International Iris

Introductions for 2011



Anatevka



Aureoles



Babsi



Conquering Hero



Bing



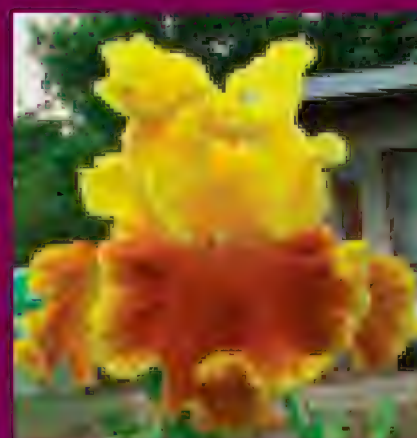
Fruehnebel



Gentle Dawn



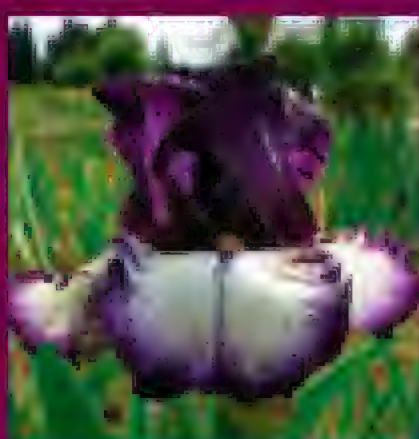
Greenhorn



Honey Horse



Karibik



La Troienne



Mare d'Inverno



Our Vivia



Pink Fire



Pretty Ballerina



Quizzical



Trick of the Light



Valeria Romoli



Whistler



Beautiful Victoria
from TBIS in 2011



Impertinent (BB)



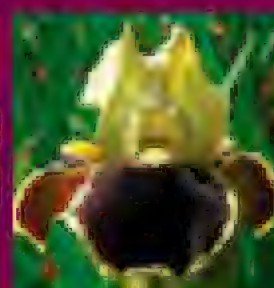
Apricosa (IB)



All Beautiful
(SDB)



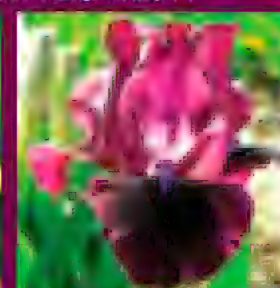
Brontolo (SDB)



Catcatcher
(SDB)



Gongolo (SDB)



Red Velvet Elf
(SDB)

Pricing (includes postage):

TBs: \$45 each; \$40 each for 3 or more different varieties **BB:** \$25; IB: \$15

SDBs: \$15 each, \$10 each for 3 or more different varieties

P.O. Box 18124

Portland, OR 97218-0124

bfilardi@comcast.net

www.internationaliris.com

WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2011

By Bryan, Don, and Ginny Spoon and John Burton

Alessandra's Gift (B. Spoon). Sdlg. 2003-B42VAR. **TB**, 36" (91 cm), 7 buds, ML. S. and style arms variegated pale yellow green with lavender streaks and blue splashes. F. light jade (RHS 198D, grayed green), variegated with darker jade streaks and splashes, second variegation of white wedges with purple centers, and golden yellow hafts. Beards golden yellow. Ruffled. Domed standards. Arched falls. Fertile both ways. Millennium Falcon selfed..... \$45

Anne Lowe (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2005-582REZ. **SDB**, 11" (28 cm), 2-3 buds, EM & **RE** (October in zone 6b). S., style arms, and F. yellow orange. Pinkish centers in standards. Falls have reddish maroon spot with darker veins and yellow orange midline. Prominent solid red-orange beards. Ruffled. Semi-flared falls. Erect standards. Very lightly laced. Laced style arm crests. Slight spicy fragrance. Fertile both ways. Hot Chic X Lumalite. \$20

Autumn Garnet (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2002-99A. **TB**, 34" (86 cm), 7-9 buds, EM & **RE** (November in zone 6b). S. and style arms medium rosy pink. F. deep garnet with 1/8" medium rosy pink border. Rosy pink haft marks beside beards, white tipped red orange (RHS 41A). Ruffled. Semi-flared falls. Erect standards. Lightly laced. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. Wise Wish X Cherry Glen..... \$45

Blue Skippers (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 98-145BL. **TB**, 37" (94 cm), 7-9 buds, ML. S., style arms, and F. light French blue (RHS 100D). Beards white tipped yellow orange, deeper yellow-orange in throat. Ruffled. Flared. Closed standards. Lightly laced. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. Neptune's Cloak X Sky and Sun..... \$45

Cara (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2004-14 ORGRE. **SDB**, 10" (25 cm), 2-3 buds. EM & **RE** (October in zone 6b). S., style arms, and F. intense pinkish orange. Lighter sun spray around solid red-orange (RHS 41A) beards. Ruffled. Wide, flared falls. Erect standards. Fertile both ways. Marksman X (Autumn Orange x sibling Autumn Tangerine)..... \$20

Cardinal Coat (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2003-24RR. **SDB**, 11" (28 cm), 2-3 buds, M. S., style arms, and F. cardinal red (RHS 53C). Closed standards slightly darker midribs. Falls slightly darker veins and centers. Beards golden yellow tipped orange. Ruffled. Semi-flared falls. Slight sweet fragrance. Cerise Boy X sibling Red Rabbit..... \$20

Carrie Winter (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2000-166CW. **TB**, 36" (91 cm), 7 buds. ML. S. and style arms light yellow. F. medium violet with 1/8" lighter border and hairline darker edge. Haft area maroon and white zonal around beards with radiating light veins creating a prominent sun spray pattern. Beards white tipped yellow orange. Ruffled. Arched falls, Domed, closed standards. Lightly laced. Pronounced, pleasant sweet fragrance of vanilla. Fertile both ways. Dreaming Rainbows X ((Son of Dreams x Clear Day) x Condottiere)..... \$45

Dan Laing (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2003-180VARBC. **TB**, 32" (81 cm), 7 buds. ML. S. and style arms lavender pink with darker rose pink variegation streaks and splashes. F. amber with dark mahogany variegation streaks and splashes. Sun spray of lavender pink and maroon around beards. Lavender pink under surface of falls. Ruffled. Wide, flared falls. Erect standards. Slight spicy fragrance. Fertile both ways. Autumn Years X Rebound. \$45

Eric Simpson (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2005-575RER. **SDB**, 12" (30 cm), 2-3 buds. EM & **RE** (October in zone 6b). S. and style arms medium garnet red with style arms darker violet at midribs with white edges. F. Medium garnet red, spot with very dark garnet branching veins. Beards medium garnet red. Ruffled. Flared. Closed standards. Slight spicy fragrance. Fertile. SDB Hot Chic X MDB Royal Maroon..... \$20

Exotic Eyes (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2005-468CW. **SDB**, 15" (38 cm), 2-3 buds. ML. S. and style arms ruby red (RHS blend of 46A & 59A). Erect, domed standards have darker veins. Style arms have dark crest, light plum midribs, and white edges. F. ruby red with darker veins. Hafts and shoulders ruby red and cream sun spray. Falls have 1/8" light rose pink border and yellow bases. Beards lavender blue tipped bronze, solid bronze in throat. Slightly ruffled. Flared. Slight sweet fragrance. Cat's Eye X (High Wire x Shakespeare's Sonnet). \$20

Flo (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2004-197RE. **BB**, 20" (51 cm), 7-9 buds. EM & **RE** (September in zone 6b). S. light tan-yellow (RHS 162D) as are style arms with lavender midribs. F. lavender, darker in center, lighter around beards, darker veins. Haft and shoulders amber. Darker lavender hairline edge. Beards white tipped yellow-orange (23A), deeper orange in throat. Ruffled. Semi-flared falls. Domed standards. Diamond dusted. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. TB Cobra's Eye X BB Love Goes On..... \$30

Green Spring (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2005-509GTP. **SDB**, 11" (28 cm), 1-2 buds. EM. S. light yellow-green. Style arms nearly white, light blue at midribs, pinkish on edges. F. light yellow-green with spot deeper yellow-green (RHS N144A) near beards and (N151B) on spot periphery. Beards yellow tipped yellow orange (24B), darker in throat. Slightly ruffled. Flared. Erect, domed standards. Slight sweet fragrance. Sky Willow X Moss Spot. \$20

Jack's Choice (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2002-138ABC. **TB**, 35" (89 cm), 7-9 buds. ML. S. Creamy light yellow, slightly darker at tips. Style arms creamy light yellow. F. Garnet red with creamy yellow zonal around tangerine beards. Lighter garnet red periphery, darker hairline edge. Ruffled. Arched falls. Closed standards. Slight sweet fragrance. Quandary X Champagne Elegance..... \$45

WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2011 continued

Katharine Steele (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2004-140KS. **TB**, 31" (79 cm), 7 buds. M. S. white edged lavender blue, darker bases. Style arms white edged lavender blue with orchid pink across stigmatic lip. F. purple violet (RHS N182A/B/C), darkest (N182A) at midline with lighter veins and splotches radiating from white zonal. Beards white tipped orange (25A), deeper orange in throat. Ruffled. Arched falls. Laced. Closed standards. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. Perfect Union X Paul Black. \$45

Kulu (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2002-218LAVGLD. **SDB**, 14" (36 cm), 2-3 buds. M. S. medium violet (RHS N88B/C) tipped and edged yellow (6D). Style arms light lavender, darker at bases. Light yellow crests. F. medium violet (88B/C) bordered yellow (6D) on periphery. Lighter spike at tip of beards. Beards white tipped lavender blue and bronze in throat. Ruffled. Flared. Erect, domed standards. No fragrance. Fertile both ways. (Bright Moment x (Olney Belle x Snow Tree)) X ((Olney Belle x Snow Tree) x sibling (Olney Belle x Snow Tree)). \$20

Linda Laing (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2000-150RD. **TB**, 37" (94 cm), 7-9 buds. ML. S., style arms, and F. rosy red, standards with slightly darker midribs. Style arms with lighter stigmatic lips. F. with slightly darker veins. Hidden lighter rosy red haft marks beside beards. Beards rosy red tipped red orange (RHS 41A). Ruffled. Laced. Wide, arched falls. Velvety texture. Slight sweet fragrance. Will Scarlet X Fashionably Late. \$50

Lotta Dotta (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2005-542PLICATA. **MDB** 7" (18 cm), 1-2 buds. M. S. white, edged violet with violet, pronounced stitching and midribs. Style arms dark violet. F. violet edges and stitching. Scattered violet veins across the white ground. Beards white, prominently tipped dark violet. Ruffled. Flared. Closed standards. Slight sweet fragrance. Spiderman X Gaily Forward..... \$15

Marilyn Naylor (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2003-172A. **TB**, 37" (94 cm), 7-10 buds). ML. S. and style arms pure white. Lavender blue bases in style arms. F. purple (RHS N79C/D) dashes, dots and lines, darker (N79C) centers, light yellow veins and midlines, ¼" light yellow (2D) border, dark amber hairline edge. Beards white tipped yellow orange to orange (25A) in throat. Slight spicy fragrance. Ruffled. Semi-flared. Lightly laced with laced crests. Domed standards. Fertile both ways. Whispering Spirits X (Sugar Magnolia x America the Beautiful sibling). \$50

Mir (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2005-377SBL. **SDB**, 9" (23 cm), 1-3 buds. EM. S. white with intense spectrum blue pattern inside bases and midribs. Style arms white. F. White with intense, true spectrum blue (RHS 105B/C) spot with radiating edges and white midlines. Beards white. Ruffled. Semi-flared. Open Standards. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. (Toy Boat x Tu Tu Turquoise) X Wise Willow. \$25

Pom (D. Spoon), Sdlg. 2004-5RDRE. **SDB**, 9" (23 cm), 1-2 buds. EM & **RE** (October in zone 6b). Erect standards cranberry red. Style arms lighter cranberry red with darker midribs. F. cranberry red. Darker cranberry red and cream haft marks. Beards white tipped tangerine. Tailored petals. Flared. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. Red Rabbit X Autumn Tangerine. \$20

Ray Jones (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2005-416RE. **SDB**, 13" (33 cm), 2-3 buds, can produce two stalks from one rhizome. EM & **RE** (October in zone 6b). S. and style arms intense yellow (RHS 17A). F. Falls more intense yellow giving bitone pattern. Beards yellow orange (N25B). Slightly ruffled. Flared. Slightly laced. Pronounced spicy fragrance. Olive Spot x Candy Corn sibling. \$20

Rosa Brooks (J. Burton). Sdlg. 94T. **MDB** 4-5" E. S. yellow with darker yellow crests. F. yellow, white dart at end of beards. Green veins near thin white beards, gold in throat. Greenlee G 4 (Pearl Sheen x (Cretica x Cherie). \$15

Skies are Blue (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 97-109BL. **TB**, 37" (94 cm), 7-9 buds. ML. S., style arms, and F. sky blue (RHS 101C). F., lighter area around beards with darker veins. Beards white tipped yellow orange. Ruffled. Arched falls. Closed standards. Slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. Calm Sea X Caribbean Dream. \$45

Steppe (J. Burton). Sdlg. CP7. **MDB** 5" E. S. & F. bright red violet, styles blue-white, midribs and crests violet, Blue beards. SIGNA seed from the Caucasus. Sib to Suslik. \$15

Zippo (G. Spoon). Sdlg. 2004-G3. **SDB**, 9" (23 cm), 1-2 buds. M. S., style arms, and F deep violet (much darker than RHS 83A). Style arms slightly lighter edges. F. slightly darker around beards. Hidden lavender blue haft marks beside white (N155A) beards tipped golden yellow (7A) in throat. Ruffled. Flared. Erect standards. Planned cross, parentage information lost. \$20

Winter hardy, Northern Virginia, Allegheny Mountain range (zone 6b) hybridized bearded irises.

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WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2011



Alessandra's Gift



Anne Lowe



Autumn Garnet



Blue Skippers



Cara



Cardinal Coat



Carrie Winter



Dan Laing



Eric Simpson



Exotic Eyes



Flo



Jack's Choice



Katharine Steele



Kulu



Linda Laing



Lotta Dotta



Marilyn Naylor



Mir



Pom



Zippo

Mid-America Garden, LLC

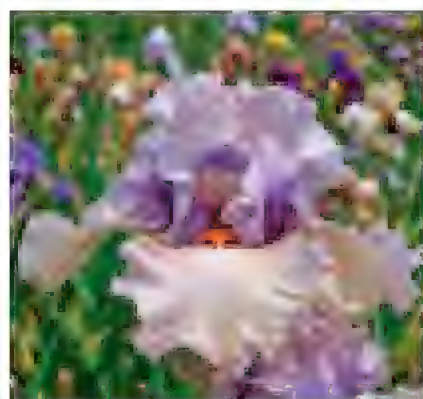
2011 Introductions from Paul Black and Thomas Johnson



Action Packed ~ PB



Catwalk Queen ~ TJ



Advanced Degree ~ PB



Cross Dresser ~ TJ



Candy Store ~ PB



Dance Till Dawn ~ TJ



Living Your Dream ~ PB



Howler ~ TJ



Pretty As A Picture ~ PB



Thinking Cap ~ TJ



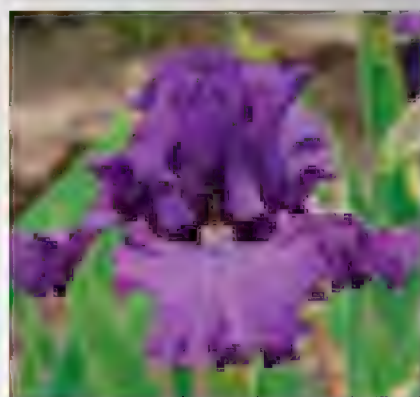
Satin and Lace ~ PB



Toast Of The Town ~ PB



Made You Look ~ TJ



Formal Event ~ TJ

These are just a sampling of our new introductions. For more information and to order a catalog go to:
www.mid-america-garden.com
or see Shopping Section at end of this bulletin.



Wish List Stalk ~ PB
one of our many
bonus iris

Getting Started With Iris Shows

Iris shows are one of the first iris activities that many new iris lovers will encounter in their involvement with local clubs and affiliates. These annual spring events bring out the best in camaraderie between members competing in good form for prizes and awards. We decided to enlist the assistance of some experienced exhibitors, whose advice will surely help you brush up your skills heading into the spring season.

Culturally Speaking



Convention goers discuss flower stalks at the simulated show exhibit.

Getting Ready for the Iris Show

RUTH BARKER, NORTH CAROLINA AND JIM MORRIS, MISSOURI

READ THE SHOW SCHEDULE

The show schedule and the show chairman rule. Although most iris shows follow closely the show sample contained in the Judges' Handbook, some may deviate with consolidations of sections or have local awards.

START EARLY!

Begin selecting stalks early. Start walking in your garden about a week in advance of the scheduled show date. Evaluate your plants and potential stalks for the show. If necessary, stake promising stalks to protect from the winds or other hazards. There is nothing more frustrating than finding a possible "Best of Show" stalk that is leaning and unusable.

CUT EARLY AND LABEL CORRECTLY

Many of us cut our show stalks as early as Wednesday for a Saturday show. We also cut promising stalks in the bud that we project will be freshly opened before the show. This may avoid that predicted rain and wind or hail storm. Also cut early in the morning (or later in the evening). It is important to have as much water in the stalk as possible because when cut the impetus to carry water up the stalk is reduced. During daylight, humidity is normally lower than during the night or late in the evening. Thus, this lower humidity speeds up the evaporation of water up the middle of the stalk in the day. Write the cultivar name on the bottom of the stalk so you always know its identity. Make sure your entry

is cut for display within the proper classification. Don't display too short or too tall, and double check the Iris Registration List if you suspect the entry's identification. Don't mix up your stalks and vases either!

PREPARE ENTRY TAGS IN ADVANCE

Complete your entry tags in accordance with the Show Schedule and do it before you leave for the show. Use return address labels to save time. Complete both top and bottom of the tags. Rubber bands inserted through the entry tag punched hole and looped over your entry container are efficient.

SLOWING DOWN AND PUSHING

As it gets closer to the show, begin to evaluate whether that lovely stalk has buds that are going to open in time for the show. If some buds are progressing too quickly, the stalks may be cut, put into a wine bottle and in the refrigerator for a couple of days, which will slow it down. If you do not have a second refrigerator, this practice will force you to either go on a diet or eat out! If you do have a second refrigerator, place wet towels inside to add humidity so the buds don't dry out, since most refrigerators have dehumidifiers. On the other hand, if the night before the show, you have buds that are showing a lot of color but need to be pushed, put them in wine bottles and set on the bathroom counter. Keep the lights on, the door closed and turn on the hot shower every so often to keep the room very humid and warm. These buds will likely open overnight for you!

WEDGING AND LAST-MINUTE GROOMING

Groom at home the night before the show, if you prefer. Wipe fingerprints off of the stalks. Wedge stalks into bottles. The use of cheap carpet padding or flexible foam plastic cut to wedge size is the best wedging material. It is so efficient and much easier to use than paper, cork, sticks, boxwood cuttings, cut stalk material, etc. It will secure your entry from moving in the bottle or PVC pipe. Evaporation takes place from the foliage, so remove those leaves at the base of the stalk as these do not add points but can subtract points from the judging. Exceptions might be made for some beardless entries where the foliage adds to the appearance of the stalk. Place those stalks in deep water as soon as possible.

GET YOUR FLOWERS TO THE SHOW INTACT

Watch the top! Most of us have seen or heard of someone with that "Best of Show" stalk being smashed in the car or during transport. Develop a method of transport that works for you. Here's an easy technique—

carry your median and Siberian entries (already groomed) in bottles in rectangular peach baskets with handles. You can stuff napkins, newspaper or wash cloths in to keep the bottles from shifting. Wine boxes or milk crates work well for TBs. Some use buckets with either rolled up newspapers (on end) or chicken wire to stabilize the flower stalks. Others use wood carriers with PVC pipe. Support or wedge the bottles from moving during transport.

ENTER AND ENJOY

Place your entries or provide them to the entry committee if you have one. Make sure that you make a last-minute check of your entries removing critters, spider webs, foam wedges in the display, and fingerprints. Ensure that your stalk is **in the water** and wedged firmly in the bottle so that show clerks can't knock it askew. After entry and show preparation, walk away before the judging. Go have fun and come back after judging to see your winners!

Don't forget to offer a Youth Division in your show. It takes only a small space in your schedule to do so. Simply say: "Division II – Youth Horticulture. Same as Division I except for those under 19 years of age." You may also add the following: "A youth may enter either the adult or youth Horticulture Division, but not both in the same show. The youth must decide, not the show committee."



Photo: Jim Morris

Iris blooms in transit to convention.

Success at an Iris Show

GARY SLAGLE, NEW JERSEY

I FEEL THAT TO HAVE SUCCESS AT AN IRIS SHOW YOU NEED TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND WHAT AN AIS JUDGE IS LOOKING FOR. As a judge we are looking for cultural perfection (how well the specimen was grown) and condition and grooming (how well the specimen was prepared for entry). Your entry will be evaluated on a 100 point scale determined by the AIS Judges' Handbook.

- A. CULTURAL PERFECTION.....75 pts
 - 1. Flower 45 pts
 - a. Color.....15 pts
 - b. Size5 pts
 - c. Substance10 pts
 - d. Form.....15 pts
 - 2. Stalk30 pts
 - a. Open Blooms15 pts
 - b. Branch Balance and Bud Placement.....15 pts
- B. CONDITION AND GROOMING25 pts

Starting at the top with cultural perfection you will notice this is worth 75 of the total 100 points. This will determine how well you grew your iris. Forty five of these points are based on the flower alone. Judges look at the color of the flower mainly to make sure that the variety is named properly and how fresh the flower is. The size of the flower will determine how well you grew the specimen—undersized flowers can indicate under-fertilization or poor

growing conditions. Substance is the tissue structure of the bloom. If you bring a stalk that has a bloom on its third day the tissue structure is going to be very weak. Fresh flowers are always best. Form is important too. If one or more of the petals has a severe tear or other damage, this will detract from the flowers form.

The overall stalk is worth the other 30 of 75 points. One to two open blooms are best! I know the urge to bring that stalk that has three to four open blooms, but don't! Please leave it at home and enjoy it there. Why? The odds of having three to four blooms in perfect condition are almost impossible. Due to the sequencing of flowers, there will almost always be a difference in size, color, substance and form between the blooms. A well-grown stalk will usually result in good branching and bud placement. Try to bring stalks that have nice candelabra-type branching. Stalks that have tight branching usually interfere with one of the blooms causing it to be deformed in one way or another.

Condition and grooming make up the final 25 of 100 points. I call this primping. Any foreign material like fingerprints or dust that does not belong must be removed for you to score better on the show bench. One of the best ways to learn how you can do better on the show bench is ask the judges when they have completed judging your show. We are there to help you, so please ask!

BELOW: Madison, 2010 Convention **BELOW RIGHT:** Iris show table of winners, May 2009 **BELOW FAR RIGHT:** Iris show winning entry design, 2008. Designer Robin Gosnell of Troy, MO.



Tips for Design Arrangements

JEAN MORRIS, MISSOURI

READ THE DESIGN SCHEDULE AND RULES

Important—note the space requirements for each design class you plan to enter. Your design must stay within these perimeters. Also pay attention to any other requirements mentioned in each design class. Is a color theme suggested, is it a table design requiring dishes, must water be featured, is it a creature design, and is the use of an accessory or decorative wood required? You will want to choose which classes you'd like to enter, based on this information.

GATHER YOUR DESIGN COMPONENTS IN ADVANCE

Clean your containers and pin/needle holders and locate stickum, oasis, decorative wood, dried materials, accessories, mats, table coverings and place settings as required by the classes of your show schedule. Search your garden for line materials, irises and other plant materials; and if lacking, arrange to borrow some of them from friends or place an order with your local florist. Don't wait until the morning of the show! A day in advance you should cut and harden your fresh plant materials in deep tepid water. This will prevent them from wilting.

PLAN YOUR DESIGNS IN ADVANCE

Consider the overall theme of your iris show and then look carefully at the individual classes. Make a list of design ideas that would carry out the theme of each class that interests you. Discuss them with a friend, if

it's helpful to you. Decide on a class or two you want to enter and inform the Design Chairman of your choices if required by your schedule. Don't try to do too many. One or two well-thought-out designs will be better than three or four hurried arrangements and will be less stressful for you – especially if you also have horticulture entries and/or other show duties. It is a good idea to practice assembling your designs at home if you are working out a new idea. However assembling your design entries at the show, allowing plenty of time to complete them, is usually easier than trying to transport a finished design to the show in a vehicle. Always bring along an extra container as a backup with the pin holder or oasis already in place. If you don't need to use it, be willing to lend it to anyone who might need it at the last minute. Your generosity will encourage others and contribute to the joy and self-esteem shared among club members.

AN ENCOURAGING WORD

You can do this! Choose to enter one design class if you are a beginner. A bit of bravery is involved the first time you create a design, but take that first step and decide to learn something new. Iris shows are friendly competitions so if you don't win a blue ribbon the first time, don't feel badly. Remember, many show visitors will see and admire your work just the way it is. In fact, I believe it is often the second- or third-place design that the general public likes best. Don't give up. Keep on learning and designing. For more design information,





Photo: A. Stanton

A convention attendee studies a cut stalk during the simulated show exhibit.



Jean Morris and Iris design: 'Moby Dick' with 'Honky Tonk Blues'

go to the AIS website (<http://www.irises.com>) and click on "Member Services" and then the "Design Tutorial" posted there. The information is quite long, but it should explain a great deal and answer many questions a beginner might have. Relax and enjoy the beauty you will add with your design contributions. Design adds another dimension to your show that horticulture alone does not render. Design adds a touch of class.

Tips for Educational Exhibits

JEAN MORRIS, MISSOURI

WHAT IS AN EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT? An educational exhibit can be a poster or live demonstration that tells the iris show visitors about some aspect of growing, showing or hybridizing irises. These days, a short Powerpoint or slide presentation that runs during the show could be set up as an educational exhibit.

EXAMPLES OF EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

While trying to tie in your exhibit with the show's general theme is desirable, the main reason for this division is educating the public about irises. Ask yourself what you needed to learn when you first became interested in growing irises. A poster showing culture requirements is one idea. A demonstration on dividing and/or planting rhizomes is another, and using a couple of cat litter boxes to hold the soil makes this display

less messy too. Other popular ideas include bearded iris heights and bloom seasons (from MDBs to TBs); classes of beardless irises; irises in the landscape; iris species to try in your area; iris colors and patterns – the list could go on and on. Old AIS calendars and/or iris catalogs are good sources for colorful pictures for your display.

MATERIALS TO USE

Office supply stores sell stand-up poster boards and poster letters in bright colors and different sizes. You will find that these work well for a title at the top of your poster. Your title and overall idea should be short and eye-catching to draw people in so they will read the information. Additional pages of information can be placed in front of the posters, for show visitors to take as a handout. Remember to reserve a space for your display with your show chairman. ♣





IRIS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2011

AUTUMN IN MISSOURI (Niswonger'11) TB, Sdlg. 3-08: (Ring Around Rosie x Vienna Waltz) X Muscian, 32" tall, Mid. You wouldn't expect a brown bitone to come from this cross; but, here it is with the good form of all the parents. It has a gold beard and a slight rim of light brown on the dark brown falls. It's a good vigorous grower. \$50.00

COSTUME BALL (Niswonger'11) TB, Sdlg. 17-08: Shelby Lynne X Undercurrent, 34" tall, Mid., No, this is not a space ager but some of its sibs were. The standards are white and the falls blue with a large white blaze in the center. The tangerine beard gives it a nice touch. The name was supplied by Von Long of Jefferson City, MO. It was awarded an Exhibition Certificate from the SEMO Iris Society in 2010. \$ 50.00

DESIGN IN PINK (Niswonger'11) TB, Sdlg. 14-08(((65-97:(43-88 :Pink Ballerina x Paradise) x 42-88((Mt. Cook A'Dawning x An Jan) x Pink Riot))) X Candy Scholes In the seventies, I met Stanley Foote from Alhambra, CA who hybridized Mt. Cook A'Dawning'72. He related that he was in New Zealand and as he awoke, the sun was coming up over Mt. Cook and it was the most intense pink he had ever seen. At the same time he had this deep pink seedling and it inspired him to name it from this "once in a lifetime" morning. As we observed it growing, he expressed the desire that someone would use it in hybridizing and retain the color but improve the form. I felt that this would be a good goal for which to aim. The color may not quite be there but this gives the opportunity for another hybridizer to continue the quest. \$50.00

JINGLE DRESS (Niswonger'11) TB, Sdlg. 10-08: 7-05: (Ring Around Rosie x Vienna Waltz) X Muscian. 32", Mid., A sib to Autumn In Missouri but here the plicata pattern appears in burgundy. The standards are solid in color but the falls are burgundy plicata. The tangerine beard adds to its beauty. The name was supplied by Gloria Johnston (she has provided many for me) of Crandon WI where she works with the Potawatomi Indians and the name is the term used for the dress worn in their dances. \$50.00

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An Iris Lover: Douglas Kanarowski

BY JANET SMITH, CALIFORNIA

Contributor Janet Smith writes about a up-and-coming California iris lover with a passion for hybridizing distinctive irises.

All photos: Doug Kanarowski

For more studied readers, Doug's name may already be somewhat familiar. Over the past few years, some of his more remarkable seedlings have been featured on these pages, and his commercial ad for Mariposa Iris first appeared in this magazine last year. But let's start closer to the beginning. Who is Doug Kanarowski?

I suspected that I was in for something unusual when Doug started off our interview with this— "Back in Michigan we were quite poor. So, I was actually born in a log cabin that I helped by father build."

But we didn't spend much time in that chapter of his life. As is usual for him, he immediately shifted back into serious iris mode. "As far as my iris roots go, my very first introduction to the world of gardening began when my young eyes first beheld the beauty of Indian corn," said Doug. "My kindergarten teacher Miss Burr had brought the colorful corn to the classroom to help tell the Thanksgiving story. I was smitten. And then, I

immediately wanted to know how I could get my own." With ears wide open, Doug listened intently to what amounted to his first gardening lesson. She explained that if he planted an individual seed, it would actually grow into a full-sized cornstalk and produce the same, highly-colored ears.

Doug continued, "On the very last day of the school year, Miss Burr took the ears down from where they had hung all year and gave each of us three precious seeds. Evidently I valued them a lot more than the other kids. On the bus ride home, my classmates actually threw theirs at each other! How disrespectful!" But opportunity can knock, even for a 5 year-old. In the blink of an eye, Doug crawled around on the dirty bus floor, searched for those fallen little treasures, and carefully pocketed each one at a time. "Somehow, months later, I experienced my first miracle of nature when that handful of seeds actually grew and produced a beautiful Indian corn crop," said Doug.



Seedling #0406

As the years passed, Doug sharpened his gardening skills by growing vegetables, but he avoided flowers. “They’re pretty, but you can’t eat them,” he quipped. Once he married Diane, a gardener from childhood herself, they each assumed separate family responsibilities—he grew all the vegetables, and she grew all the flowers.

It was actually Diane that discovered the modern world of irises when she made her first visit to the newly established Superstition Iris Gardens that had relocated to Mariposa County. Shortly thereafter, three pivotal events took place in fairly rapid succession. First, Diane got a bit overwhelmed with the upkeep of her flowers. As an act of kindness, Doug reluctantly agreed to help with just the iris portion of her very extensive flower garden. Second, during one of their joint visits to Superstition, Rick Tasco showed him how to breed an iris. “At that moment, I secretly felt like the recipient of the secret recipe for Coca-Cola and clearly remember practically shouting out loud, “Do you have any idea what you’ve just done?”

The third event occurred during a trip to the nursery of a world-renown rose breeder Ralph Moore. Moore shared that of the hundreds of promising seedlings that he gets each year, he would only introduce a rose that was either 20% different or 20% better than what was already on the market. To Doug, that made perfect sense.

Over the period of a couple of years, the chore of growing irises transformed into the pleasure of growing, breeding and talking about irises. But Doug will tell you that his first few years as an aspiring breeder were resounding failures. “The first year, I bred everything to ‘Batik’ and of course, I got nothing. The second year, I bred everything to ‘Broadway Star’, a flower that was too old. So, I only got old-looking flowers. Fortunately, I learn quickly. By the third year, around 1998, I figured out that at least one of the parents had to be a high-quality, modern flower.”

Doug is hypercritical his own seedlings, a tougher judge than anyone I’ve ever met. “Because I’m looking for that one seedling that is at least 20% different or 20% better than what is already on the market, I end up throwing away what other iris people would cry for,” said Doug. “Many of the ones that I throw away are 5 or

10% better than what is on the market, but that’s still not good enough. My goal is to *advance* the iris world, and I don’t think that you can do that by introducing more of the same old thing. Yes, there could theoretically be a limit to the number of colors and patterns that we can produce, but I sure haven’t found it yet.”

How does he discover so many new lines? He ticked off a list of tricks, most of which boil down to thinking outside of the box. For example, if he sees something in the seedling bed unlike any other iris, he will immediately self that flower. He believes that practice increases his odds of putting him two generations further down the road.

Doug has more than a few breeding goals. He’s aiming for what he calls “transparency,” as observed in some poppies, a modern flower with no ruffles, an improved ‘Lightshine’ (and he’s got one that’s close—#0406), sunbursts done in pastels instead of harsh jewel tones (like his #0343), quadruple terminal buds held in three planes, browns the color of root beer, watercolor-like pigment application, and continuous rebloomers (like his #0375).

Thinking outside of the box doesn’t stop at the edge of his seedling beds. On his website, at www.mariposairis.com, you’ll see his 10 remarkable introductions plus these industry leading innovations: extensive write-ups of each introduction, extra large master photos, detailed seedling



Seedling #0343



Seedling #0357

evaluation form, growing tips, the first money-back guaranteed flower, four breeding theories, plus more!

Hybridizing and marketing aren't his whole story. My very first experience with Doug was certainly out of the ordinary. He was such a new member to the Fresno Iris Society, that we didn't even know his last name. He had figured out that our treasury was in serious need. As club President, it's not every day that someone comes up to you and asks if he can put on his own fundraiser. I told him I wasn't sure how many rhizomes we could get him for his fundraiser. Luckily, he didn't need or want any. Instead, he just sold all of his own stock, recruited his neighbors to help out and then delivered a nice check to the club. If you want a surprise, just ask Doug what his next iris idea is! ♣

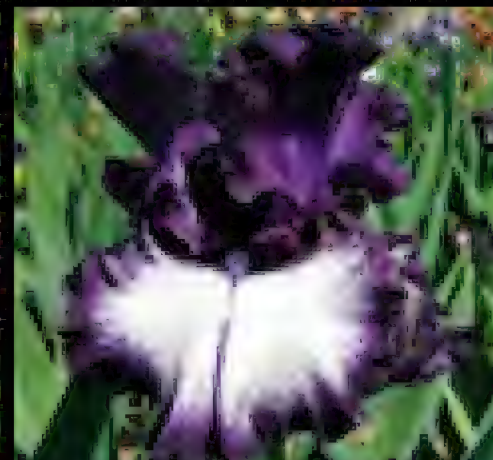
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‘Old Black Magic’ (SCHREINER, 1996) is a lightly ruffled, coal black with contrasting mustard beards. Medium-sized yet substantial flowers are pleasantly raisin-scented with very velvet sheen, and this certainly has magic with style. The strong stems produce an amazing 8-12 buds per stem and it has good vigor. If I could only grow one, this is the one I would choose—my top favorite. I grow it amongst chartreuse and golden foliaged plants and it gleams just as much as the gold. It is a good performer. If there was a flower for Ella Fitzgerald, this would be it. Its parentage is ‘Midnight Dancer’ X ‘Back in Black’. It has won more than one award.

My Favorite Irises

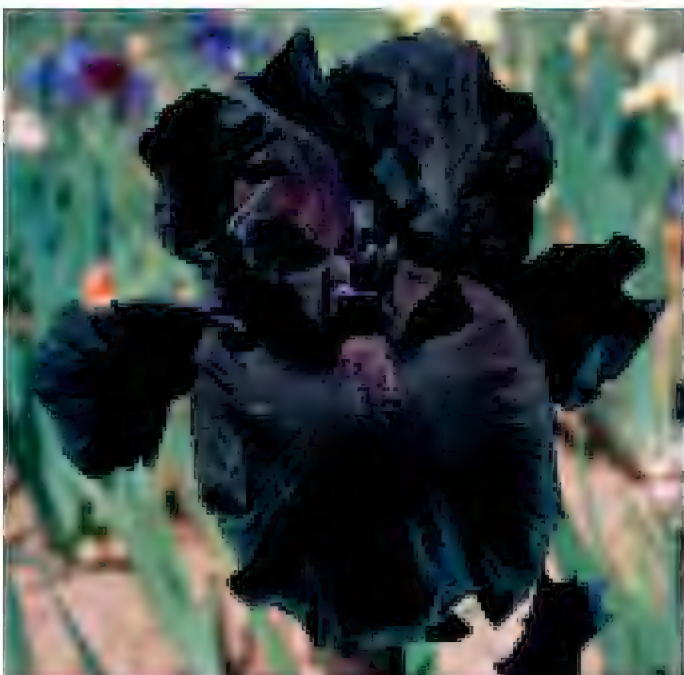
BY KAREN PLATT, UNITED KINGDOM

Garden author and black plant collector Karen Platt shares seven of her favorite black irises.

It's not easy to choose just seven black irises, especially when you have over 460 varieties to choose from. Inevitably there are some favorites missing from this list. Blackest is not my objective. I actually prefer a flower to have a hint of maroon, blue or purple. I look for form, sheen, scent and ruffles as well as good flowering ability.



‘Before The Storm’ (S. INNERST, 1988) is heralded by most as one of the darkest. It bears moderately sized flowers of elegant, tailored shape, all black with well-flared falls, which open well. It grows well, forms clumps easily and has a slight sweet fragrance. The petals have good substance too. The beards are black with a hint of violet tipped bronze. This matte-finished flower was the nearest to black when introduced and has won many medals including the coveted Dykes Medal in 1996. I have grown this for many years and it is *black*. It has very complicated parentage including ‘Superstition’ (Schreiner’s, 1971), ‘Patent Leather’ (Schreiner’s, 1971), ‘Study In Black’ (Plough, 1968) and many Schreiner seedlings. It has a place in my top five irises. This is one to be worshipped.



‘Midnight Oil’ (K. KEPPEL, 1997) is sooty black with a slightly velvet, matte finish and bushy, grape beards. Extremely dark ebony tones come from one of its parents, the admirable ‘Before The Storm’. The style arms are darker than port. The large flowers have good substance and emit a slight, sweet fragrance. The standards are slightly shorter than usual. It withstands winds well. Outstanding form and color with wavy, very dark flowers. It has won more than one award. Its parentage is ((‘Snowbrook’ x ‘Blackout’) x ‘Light Show’ sib) X ‘Before the Storm’.

Photo: Aitken



Photo: Carla Lankow



Photo: Aitken



Photo: Schreiner's Iris Gardens

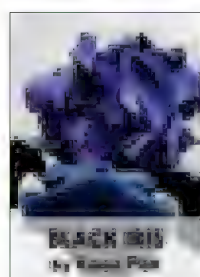


‘Fade to Black’ (SCHREINER, 2002) I was speaking on the west coast of America and took a visit to Schreiner’s when this amazing flower was a new introduction—it blew my socks off. A ruffled, intense dark black self with darkest purple beards. It bears the swarthy, raven tones from its parent ‘Hello Darkness’ (Schreiner, 1992) with a touch of violet to the base of the standards and in the center of the falls. This is a very seductive flower. Three-branched stems sport double-socketed buds with 9 flowers per stalk. It has good vigor and multiplies well. Its parentage is BB 224-1, ‘Instant Hit’ pod parent X ‘Hello Darkness’. It is an award winner and rightly so.

I. chrysographes is a rhizomatous beardless iris species with linear grey-green leaves to 20” long. It was discovered in Western Szechuan in 1908 by E. H. Wilson, growing at very high altitude. In early summer, each unbranched stem bears two fragrant, velvety, dark red-violet flowers, up to 3” across, having gold streaks on the falls. It is easy in peaty, moist soil that is not waterlogged but never dries out. Fully hardy through USDA Zone 5, it boasts seductive but very fleeting flowers. These smaller flowers are best seen at close-up range. For the lover of really dark flowers, it is best to seek one of the black forms. Sadly, often the difficulty with this species is getting it to flower in subsequent years. ♣

‘Tropical Evening’ (J. T. AITKEN, 2006) There are some wonderful bicolors and this one is delicious. The pale lilac-blue standards are crimped at the edges. They combine well with the wavy, velvety wine, near-black falls having purple beards tipped in brick red. It has wonderful form and will brighten any garden. I love it. It is a cross between ‘Excellency’ X ‘Romantic Evening’. Bicolors easily give the garden two choices of color for companion plantings in the garden, add a dash of plants in the color of the beard and you have harmonious coloring in the border.

‘Black is Black’ (SCHREINER, 2010) sports deep oil black ebony, ruffled flowers with self beards. The standards are slightly lighter with a touch of wine-purple to the base of the petals. Satiny, velvety, shining black. Welcome that darkness. However, it is not just the coloring that is superb; that would be nothing without vigor. The well-branched stems carry triple-socketed buds that yield an admirable 9-12 flowers. For flower power alone, this is “The King of Blacks.”



Karen Platt is author of the new e-book *Black Irises*



www.karenplatt.co.uk

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(Fan 2011)
(Dazzling Gold X Melted Butter) TB, 36", M. 3 branches 6 buds. Best Seedling, Region 19, 2010. Gold, gold and gold!! Heavy substance, gorgeous form and beautiful stalks make this iris an all-out blue-ribbon winner!



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(Fan 2011)
(Sharpshooter X Miss Pretty). TB, 37", E. 3 branches, 2 spurs, 8 buds. The picture tells it all. A superb iris!



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(Bushnell 2011)
(Out of Little John, Joyce Terry, Champagne Waltz, Flaming Victory.) TB, 31", M. 5 branches, 1 spur, 9 buds, triple-socketed terminal. Opalescent shades of pink and mauve, orange beards. Vigorous, heavy bloomer. Beautiful stalks require no staking. Exceptionally hardy, excellent grower. Blue Ribbon seedling. Region 19, 2009.



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(Bushnell 2011)
(Out of Queen's Circle, Grecian Skies, Irene Nelson, Douce France)
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Are Two Better than One?

BY PAUL BLACK, OREGON



THERE IS NOTHING LIKE HYBRIDIZING AND EVALUATING THE RESULTING SEEDLINGS TO GIVE ONE A MASTERFUL EYE TO GAUGE THE PROGRESSION AND QUALITY OF SUBSEQUENT GENERATIONS.

A myriad of changes have occurred in standard dwarfs during my thirty years of hybridizing. Some of the more significant developments are a product of their origin. I'd like to discuss those effects on branching and buds. To set the stage, let me give a simplified explanation of their evolution. The first SDBs resulted from crosses of TBs or BBs X *Iris pumila*. *I. pumila* is a tiny, very cold hardy species. What resulted were hybrids with approximately half TB/BB genes and half *pumila* genes. Subsequent crosses were made between these hybrids and the resultant fertile family of SDBs. *I. pumila* and TB/BBs have different chromosome counts but because of their tetraploid nature, fertility was created by TB/BB chromosomes from one parent being able to pair with like chromosomes of the other parent and similarly *I. pumila* chromosomes from one parent being able to pair with like chromosomes of the other parent.

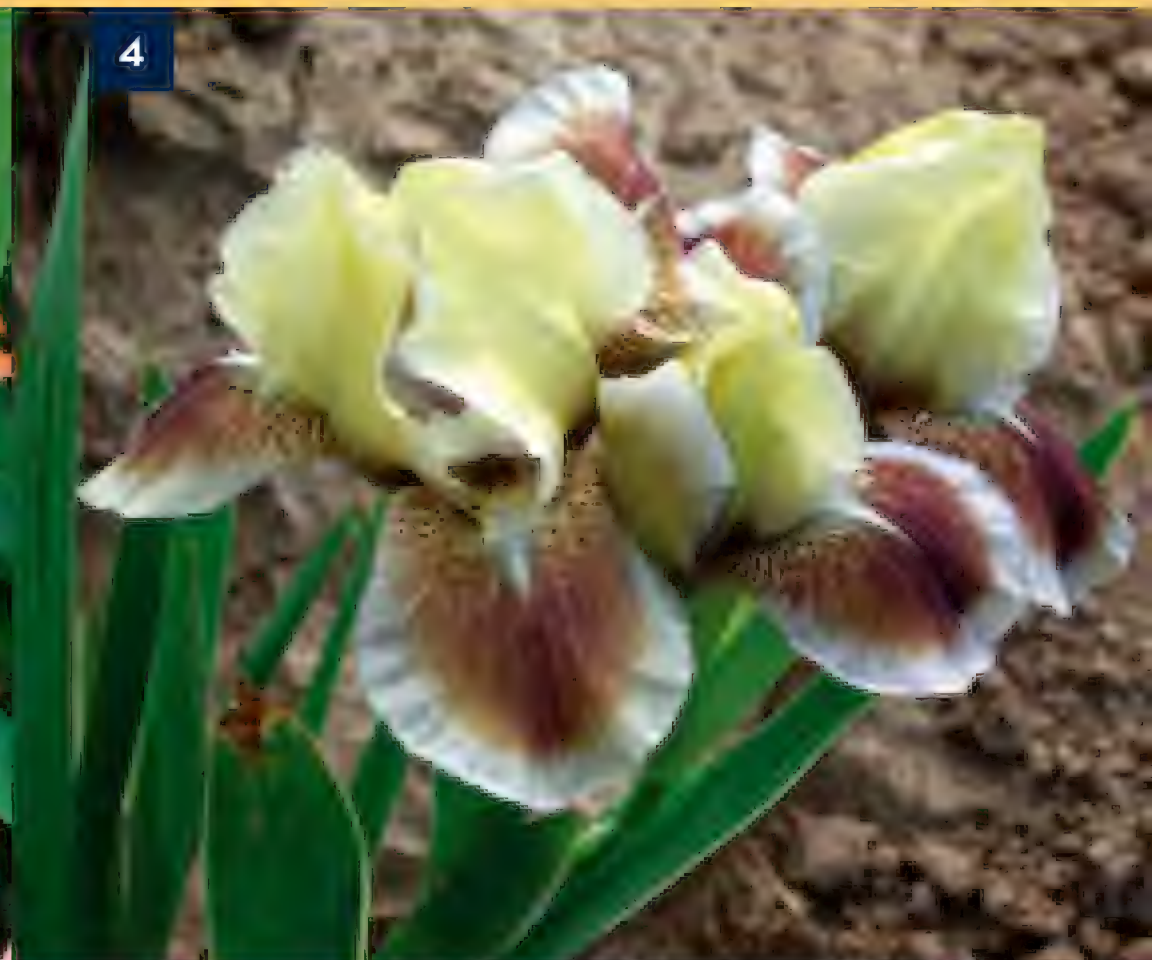
Why is this important? In theory, half of the genetic material is trying to create TB/BBs and the other half to create little *I. pumila* types. Historically TBs and BBs were almost always genetically the same. When all these

genes fit together nicely, the result is SDBs with smaller flowers in proportion to the size of the plant. When one dominates over the other, the result can be large flowers on SDB size plants and conversely small SDB flowers obscured and overpowered by TB/BB foliage. This delicate balance has been going on since their inception.

Hybrid plants seem to evolve at their own pace and in their own sweet time. It seems no matter what a breeder combines, there is a rather set rate at which evolution occurs. For a majority of years, my SDB hybrids have been a mix of what I've described above, many with very good traits and some overpowered by their TB or *I. pumila* parents and ancestors. Over about the past five years, a larger proportion of the offspring are segregating into seedlings that are much more *I. pumila* in appearance and also into ones with more TB/BB characteristics and most notably increased branching and buds.

Normally and historically, SDB branching and bud count has ranged from no branch and one bud to one branch and up to four buds. Over the past several years, comments from hybridizers proclaim the evolution of a second branch and up to six buds, occasionally more. This indicates the genetic influence of multi-branched and budded TB/BBs is beginning to dominate. On

- 1 One flower open looks nice
- 2 Fourteen inch stalk with two branches prior to flowers opening. One can see that all three flowers will open simultaneously.
- 3 Already a mess with two flowers open on each stalk and third flower ready to open
- 4 Shorter stalk with two branches and three flowers open at once – a “mass mess”



All photos: Paul Black

the surface it would seem that “more is better”. How fabulous to have show branching akin to TBs on SDBs! The reality more often than not tends to be a disastrous mess, aesthetically speaking.

Remember, for SDBs there is only 8-16 inches of stalk to work with. If each of those 4-6 buds carried on two branches opens one at a time, then one can expect a tidy display of color over a very long bloom period. Now imagine that each of those stalks opens two flowers simultaneously. Clumps then become a bit cluttered but maybe haven't become a messy blob yet, and length of bloom has been shortened only somewhat. Acting like a good TB/BB show iris, let's imagine that three blooms open at once. What a mess! Clumps simply don't have enough territory to get that many blooms open at one time. The clumps end up being undistinguished masses of flowers, some with falls forming a cup because of all the support they're getting from their neighbors. Others have two falls up and one down which isn't so great for symmetry or appreciation of individual flowers. I think you get the picture. What about length of time in bloom? It's effectively reduced by two-thirds. Three weeks of bloom has now been compressed into one glorious week of “mass mess”.

What are the conditions under which opening two

or three flowers at once might work? Flowers must be smaller. There simply isn't room for larger, very round blooms to open properly. Stalks must be at the upper limit of the class. There must be room to evenly distribute those branches along the stalk to provide sufficient space for all those flowers to open properly. The likelihood of this happening on a shorter 10" stalk is remote and even less likely on an MDB that is less than eight inches tall. To keep the lower flowers out of the foliage, the foliage must be shorter than one would expect on most SDBs. The alternative to keeping them out of the foliage is for the lower branch to be longer, but this creates a messy clump with too many flowers open on the same plane. The third trait is for stalks to be evenly distributed throughout the clump, thus giving better separation between each bloom as it opens.

All this seems to suggest that it is better to have stalks carrying one branch and three buds with the habit of opening the terminal bloom, then in a couple days the branch bloom and back to the terminal after the original terminal bloom is finished.

This discussion has purposely omitted the influence of sequential bloom stalks which can have a marked effect on clump performance. ❖



Tax Dollars and Swamp Flowers

NOLAND MARTIN, TEXAS <NM14@TXSTATE.EDU>

MY NAME IS NOLAND MARTIN, AND I AM AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY IN SAN MARCOS. One day, my father noticed the job-title on one of my business cards and, as he is wont to do, expressed an opinion: “Why on earth would you put that on your business card? That’s embarrassing. If I spent eleven years in college and two years being a post-doc, I wouldn’t advertise the fact that I was called an ‘assistant professor’. Can’t you get the university to print you some new cards?”

I assured him, “Dad, this is perfectly normal. ‘Assistant professor’ is the title given to all untenured professors at the lowest rung of the academic promotion ladder.” This of course impressed him even less.

I must say, though, that being an assistant professor, despite the subordinate-sounding job title, is the best job I have ever had. “Publish or perish” is one of the scary-

sounding, oft-stated academic mantras, yet I have had no problems on the publishing front. My graduate students, collaborators, and I seem to churn out a steady stream of papers in highly-regarded academic journals, and I don’t see any reason why this shouldn’t continue. I also have not had problems funding my research (knock on wood). I have thankfully received funding from the American Iris Society Foundation, the Society for Louisiana Iris, and two grants from the National Science Foundation. Considering that I’ve asked for and received multiple grants from all of these funding sources, it seems that my proposal ideas are well-enough liked, and that I have sufficiently justified performing the research. So basically, my job is pretty good. In addition to teaching undergraduate classes in genetics, botany, and evolution, I get to think about important scientific questions, ask for money to do experiments, hopefully get sufficient



Photo: Patrick O'Connor

money to do those experiments, write up the results, wash, rinse and repeat. If I just keep up the teaching, keep up the grant-writing, keep up the publications, and smile warmly at all higher-ranking professors that will vote on my tenure, maybe one day I will have my untenured rank of assistant professor changed to that of associate professor. I'm not sure my father will be entirely impressed with this new title either.

To be untenured is to be wary of conflict, wary of politicians, wary of politics (politics of all stripes: national, state-wide, local, university-wide, department-wide), and wary, quite frankly, of losing one's job. As an evolutionary biologist, who teaches evolution at a Texas public university, I remained silent during the 2008 presidential campaign season when a whole host of presidential candidates (and a particular vice presidential candidate who steadfastly remains in the

news to this date) disparaged my field of study without actually bothering to talk to any evolutionary biologists. I sat on my hands and said nothing as the Texas Board of Education proposed changes to my state's science teaching standards that ultimately tried to cast doubt on the theory of evolution. I did not get involved in our local district's state board of education election, though one of the candidates was a fellow professor at Texas State University (she lost), and the other candidate was a staunch anti-evolutionist (he won).

Why on earth not you wonder? Because, quite obviously, the last thing an assistant professor wants to have happen is to be noticed by a politician with an agenda, and I certainly did not want to be singled out as the whipping-boy of any anti-evolution forces. I told myself "Keep your head down. Keep your mouth shut. You have a wife, and you have two toddlers to feed, clothe, and put through college. Don't make waves." Imagine my (and my untenured colleagues') terror, then when we woke up on December 6, 2010 to the following headline: "Citizens Asked to Cut the NSF Budget by Identifying Questionable Grants". A previously unknown (to me) congressman from Nebraska, Adrian Smith, had begun an initiative in which he called on U.S. citizens to search through the NSF database and identify "questionable" grants. He even supplied the following list of search terms to use: "success, culture, media, games, social norm, lawyers, museum, leisure, stimulus." While it was unclear to me why those specific terms would have a greater chance of turning up "wasteful" spending, I didn't really care. I was quite relieved to see that the terms "evolution" and "speciation" were not included on his list. The hubub surrounding this political stunt eventually died down. I never got a call from a congressman. I never got a call from a reporter. I dodged a bullet.

Some time passed, and I was asked by the editor of this magazine to write something about my research. I work primarily on speciation, evolution, and natural hybridization in Louisiana irises. I've written a couple of articles before for this publication and for the *Fleur de Lis*, the newsletter for the Society for Louisiana Iris. What should I write about this time? Natural hybrid zones? Iris pollinators? Iris habitats? How to best grow the various Louisiana iris species? The genetics of herbivore resistance in Louisiana irises? The genetics of fungal resistance? Hybrid speciation? The perhaps-endangered status of *Iris nelsonii*? I could have written about any and all of these subjects, but I could not quit thinking about the war-on-science that is waging all around me. The fact that I have said nothing about it to date actually embarrasses me somewhat. I should welcome the chance to converse with

anyone and everyone interested in (or concerned about) my research and its potential long-term and short-term societal impacts. I should welcome the chance to not only justify my research to a review-panel of scientists at NSF and to the board of the AIS Foundation, but justify my research as well to the taxpayers and charitable donors that are the ultimate source of funding.

Why spend precious tax-payer and donor-dollars on studying a swamp-flower? Good question. Louisiana irises can be considered “model organisms” especially useful for studying the evolutionary and ecological effects of natural hybridization. As every iris grower knows, species of Louisiana irises can be crossed by hand quite readily, and many of the resultant hybrid progeny are quite beautiful (and prized by a wide variety of hybridizers, growers, judges, and horticulturists). In nature, where species co-occur, hybridization is also commonplace, mediated not by the human hand but by a suite of bee, hummingbird, and butterfly pollinators. When hybridization occurs in nature, a number of evolutionary consequences can occur, including the transfer of genes across species boundaries through repeated backcrossing or even the creation of new reproductively isolated species. We see both of these phenomena quite readily occurring in Louisiana irises: interspecific gene flow (in hybrid zones) and hybrid speciation (i.e. *i. nelsonii*). Thus, studying these processes in these taxa is relatively easy and inexpensive, and furthermore, knowledge gained about these processes in Louisiana irises are directly applicable to other plant systems that are (perhaps) of more immediate economic interest.

For instance, the advent of genetically modified crop plants has raised questions about the fate of new so-called transgenes. Since many crop plants are capable of hybridizing with their wild progenitors, and given

the potential selective advantage of new genes that code for herbicide and pest resistance, it is possible that those transgenes might escape into wild relatives through introgressive gene flow. Louisiana irises provide a natural model system for studying introgressive hybridization that is directly applicable to such agricultural crop systems. If we can gain an understanding of which genes readily cross species boundaries (and perhaps just as important, which genes do not) in Louisiana irises, this would directly inform other researchers as to which genes to focus their studies on in other disparately related systems as well. The bulk of my research on Louisiana irises to date has centered on identifying such regions of the genome that are prone to introgression.

Iris nelsonii, known from a single swamp in Southern Louisiana, is a species hypothesized to have been derived from hybridization between three progenitor species: *i. fulva*, *i. brevicaulis*, and *i. hexagona*. Sunni Taylor, a graduate student in my lab, has spent a considerable amount of time confirming this hypothesis using molecular-genetic techniques. Other researchers studying disparately-related organisms (sunflowers, pines, fish, wolves, and butterflies to name a few) have begun to show that hybrid speciation may be more common than previously thought. We are currently trying to determine the evolutionary and ecological processes that were involved in the formation of *i. nelsonii*. In short, it appears that *i. nelsonii* quickly evolved through hybridization to occupy a unique habitat that its progenitor species are not well-suited to grow in. The research on this species will directly inform other researchers interested in examining ecological speciation and adaptation in a whole host of disparately related taxa as well. Furthermore, the molecular markers that were developed to confirm the hybrid species status of *i. nelsonii* are now being utilized by our lab to perform population genetic studies of this rare species. Such population genetic studies are critical for developing management plans and informing any future restoration projects that involve this beautiful, imperiled native species.

It is very easy for me question the motives of a congressman from Nebraska who ostensibly is interested in balancing the federal budget. Why, for instance, would the National Science Foundation be the first target for a “YouCut citizen review of a government agency”, when last year’s 6.926 billion dollar NSF budget was less than 0.2 percent of the entire 3.55 trillion dollar federal budget? How on earth does the congressman believe that “Joe and Jane Citizen” are imminently qualified to “identify grants that are wasteful or are not a good use of taxpayer dollars” based solely on a quick search of NSF abstracts,

Photo: Noland Martin



I. fulva

potentially vetoing the advice from a large panel of scientific experts that painstakingly read 15-plus page proposals, ranked them among their peers, and awarded funding to (in many cases) less than 10% of those proposals submitted? The answer, of course, to both questions is that balancing the budget is simply not as important as scoring easy political points on the backs of scientists, who just want to be left alone to do their work without being made to look silly by bullying politicians.

While I find the congressman from Nebraska's intentions to be reprehensible, I have decided that perhaps something good can, in fact, come from this. If citizens actually do take him up on his offer to look at the work funded by the National Science Foundation, ask questions, and engage scientists who could inform them about the work they are doing, then that would be a good thing. I am quite proud of the work my graduate students and I have performed and continue to perform. I think it is important and worthy, and I have come to realize that I should welcome the opportunity to tell as wide of an audience as possible about it. Thus, I am providing the following: For those interested in reading my scientific publications concerning Louisiana irises, funded in large part by the National Science Foundation and the American Iris Society Foundation, they may find them free-of-charge at my website: <http://www.bio.txstate.edu/~martin/>.

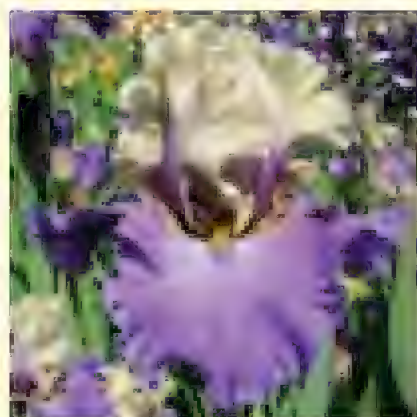


FOR ANYONE WHO WISHES TO CONTACT THE AUTHOR DIRECTLY, PLEASE USE HIS EMAIL LOCATED IN THE BYLINE. ♣



I. hexagona

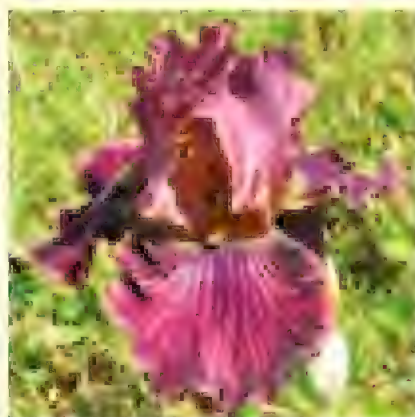
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A Second Look at the Great Clarence Mystery

BY MICHAEL LOCKATELL, VIRGINIA



Photo: Eliadan McLeester

THE BEARDED IRIS CLASSES HAVE SEEN INTENSE DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST CENTURY. COUNTLESS GENERATIONS OF SEEDLINGS VASTLY IMPROVED FLOWER FORM WITH BRASSY BUBBLE RUFFLES AND DELICATE LACY EDGES. Elusive colors and rich patterning were finally uncovered by persistent breeding. Novelty irises such as space agers and broken colors found favor. Rebloom on the other hand struggled to find disciples and a public voice.

The prevailing landscape changed with an unforeseen story appearing in Martha Stewart Living Magazine in the late nineties. Readers were captivated by the potential of their beloved “flags” blooming in spring and fall! Reliable selections created by Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg, Earl Hall, Frank Jones, Jane McKnew, Monty Byers, Ben Hager, Sterling Innerst and others finally saw wider distribution and spots on yearly popularity polls. AIS judges began to take notice.

Lloyd Zurbrigg’s breathtaking ‘Clarence’ (Zurbrigg, 1991) became a finalist for the prestigious Dykes Medal. ‘Clarence’ has fragrant flowers with white standards tinted violet on top. Falls are light-blue violet with a distinctive white center and creamy white beards. A consistent fall rebloomer, it was unable to win irisdom’s top award. A nagging sidebar to this popular Virginia-bred remontant was its unknown heritage. While not a big deal for home gardeners, its mysterious parentage greatly diminished its breeding value.

Dr. Donald Spoon, a fellow AIS Region 4 breeder from Northern Virginia tried to identify its lost lineage in an enlightening article entitled “The Great Clarence

Mystery.” The story first appeared in the 1998 Fall Edition of the *Reblooming Iris Recorder* and reprinted in the April 1999 edition of the *AIS Bulletin*. Don recounted his use of the appealing Zurbrigg rebloomer with various Keith Keppel luminata plicatas on a hunch. His instincts paid handsome dividends.

‘Mind Reader’ (Keppel, 1994) proved to be the best partner. According to Spoon, the combination produced “rebloomer-like vigor and bloomstalks up to 38 inches.” Offspring were “various luminata amoenas plus one perfect glaciata with no purple, blue, maroon or red anthocyanin pigments and faint yellow at the base of the falls.” The best of the lot—‘Daughter of Stars’ (D. Spoon, 2000) — would later suffer the same fate competing for the Dykes Medal as its famous parent.

Daughter of Stars has purple standards with a near-white edge. Falls are deep purple with lighter veins, a thin white edge plus a white area and ray pattern around white beards. A stellar Eastern-bred luminata plicata, ‘Daughter of Stars’ has dynamite rebloom tendencies particularly in locales around Region 4. The breeding potential of ‘Mind Reader’ may have been a given, but what exciting traits could ‘Clarence’ express?

The Spoon article was a great benefit to understanding the Zurbrigg rebloomer’s impact on ‘Daughter of Stars’. Don developed some intriguing theories based on test crosses, garden observations and discussions with Dr. Zurbrigg. He felt ‘I Do’ (Zurbrigg, 1974) or its offspring expressed luminata plicata genetic traits found in ‘Daughter of Stars’. I believe Don’s conclusion was correct based on recent results of ‘Clarence’ seedlings

in my garden. The likely candidates for one half of the parentage are 'Brother Carl' (Zurbrigg, 1983), an offspring of 'Sister Helen' X 'I Do', or 'Immortality' (Zurbrigg, 1982), a result of the cross of 'I Do' X 'English Cottage'. Breeding records indicate frequent use of both 'I Do' offspring in Zurbrigg rebloom breeding throughout the mid-eighties.

A time line helps us to speculate on the second genetic influence of 'Clarence'. Nita Zurbrigg in recent conversation stated her late husband would evaluate worthy seedlings over a three to four year period prior to their eventual registration and introduction. Health and relocation issues could have interrupted seedling evaluation in the late eighties. Lloyd's masterpiece luckily did not get lost in these distractions. Its initial public appearance played to rave reviews by the late Dr. D.C. Nearpass at the 1990 Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society Fall Flower Show. Former AIS President Clarence Mahan proudly recalled Nearpass saying, "Never again will anyone be able to say that reblooming irises are lagging behind other irises when it comes to flower form."

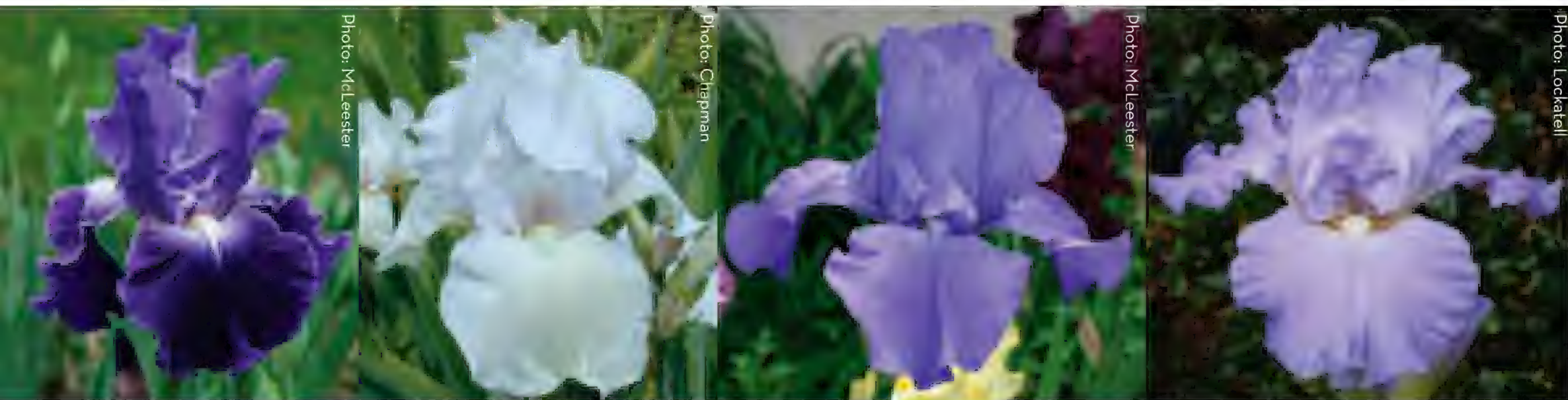
If we assume 'Clarence' obtained its rebloom prowess and *luminata plicata* tendencies from an 'I Do' seedling, perhaps its outstanding flower form came

from an outside source. The release of 'Victoria Falls' (Schreiner's, 1979) found immediate favor in eastern remontant breeding circles. Clarence Mahan remarked, "'Victoria Falls' had a reputation in the rebloom robin and rebloomed in my garden. It was a marvelous plant with nice bud placement and flower form." Zurbrigg breeding records show four successful spring crosses using 'Victoria Falls' in 1980. R56 October and R54-3 offspring would later be mentioned in reselect notes. These last two 'Victoria Falls' hopefuls would surface in the iris marketplace in 1984.

'Sugar Blues' or R56 October (Zurbrigg, 1984) was one of two 'Victoria Falls' seedlings to be registered and released. Wisteria-blue flowers have white beards with tangerine in the throat. The parentage was initially designated as 'Victoria Falls' X unknown. After a few years, "probably 'Summer Holidays'" was scribbled next to the question mark in Lloyd's studbook. Recent research found the seedling numbers were reversed in the registration.

R65 October is currently recorded as 'Sugar Blues' in the AIS Registry. The real R65 (actually R65 Form) came from a cross of 'Sprightly Air' (Schreiner's, 1976) and 'Trumpet Concerto' (Zurbrigg, 1981). This early space-age seedling is in the lineage of Zurbrigg Sdlg. #VV101





LEFT TO RIGHT: 'Daughter of Stars'; 'Brother Carl'; 'Sugar Blues'; 'Gate of Heaven' (Zurbrigg, 2004)

Slate Blue. Lloyd suggested using 'Gate of Heaven' (Zurbrigg, 2004) as a pollen parent with the reblooming VV101 Slate Blue to improve space-age flower form and to test blue expression. The one surviving seedling from this idea is a reblooming blue luminata plicata (Lockatell Sdlg.#20550-1). Initial early November 2009 bloom was a huge surprise.

'Bethany Claire' (Zurbrigg, 1984) was the other 'Victoria Falls' seedling to be released. The parentage is ('Victoria Falls' X ('Sister Helen' x 'Rime Frost')). R54-3 is another wisteria-blue self with a slight white area around white beards on 40" bloomstalks. Like 'Sugar Blues,' beards were tangerine in the throat. A check of the description for 'Rime Frost' gives considerable validity to the influence of 'Bethany Claire' as a potential 'Clarence' parent.

R53-2 ('Victoria Falls' X ('Grand Dame' x 'Summer Holidays')) was later used with 'Brother Carl' in 1984. One of the seedlings, Zurbrigg Sdlg. #V3-2-4 was described in 1986 reselect notes as a "very nice short blue." This important Zurbrigg seedling would again be mentioned in 1987 Spring Garden Notes for color, stalk size and growth. The blue hopeful would figure in six of ten recorded spring 1986 crosses involving 'Victoria Falls' and 'I Do' offspring. 'Bethany Claire' and the use of 'Sugar Blues' seedlings like V3-2-4 was a concerted effort to improve flower form, eliminate haft markings and somehow retain rebloom genetics in Zurbrigg blue lines. One of these combinations likely led to the creation of 'Clarence'.

Don Spoon suggested 'Latest Style' (Zurbrigg, 1979) as another parental choice for 'Clarence'. Only one 'Latest Style' cross with an 'I Do' seedling appears in Lloyd's studbook. V157 was from ('Latest Style' x unknown) X 'Brother Carl'. No offspring were used in future ideas or reviewed in reselect notes. The coloring of 'Latest Style' may have been similar to 'Clarence', but records indicate Lloyd Zurbrigg found more value in using 'Victoria Falls' descendants with 'I Do' children in

future blue rebloom generations.

Three named 'Clarence' children plus two older Zurbrigg seedlings still reside in my Powhatan County, VA garden. Before his death in 2005, Lloyd asked me to try using 'Daughter of Stars' with 'Gate of Heaven'. The resulting offspring were zonals, purple selfs, a purple luminata plicata, one bitone (neglecta) and one high-quality Moorish blue self. Seedlings had big flowers and short stalks or medium flowers on taller stalks. Flower substance and branching were issues. Their fall flowering season occurred from mid-October until our region's first hard frost in early November.

'Gate of Heaven' or PP38 has proven to be a dependable early September rebloomer for me except in very hot and dry summers. Its parentage is 'Clarence' X 'St. Petersburg'. Flared and ruffled medium blue blooms have cream beards with tangerine in the throat. Another older seedling in my display garden is Zurbrigg Sdlg. #PP7 or 'Clarence' X 'Amanda Erin'. Its blue tailored flowers are on short stalks and will sometimes try to flower in late October or early November. Unlike 'Gate of Heaven', PP7 is useful for testing the impact of 'Clarence' as a breeder for elusive apricot-orange rebloomers with tangerine beards.

Another 'Clarence' seedling worth mentioning is Zurbrigg Sdlg. #NN2 or 'Clarence' X 'Matrix'. Interesting pale yellow blooms have the slightest hint of violet upon opening. Flowers are big and blocky with nice ruffling. Bloomstalks however are short with no branching. NN2 faithfully reblooms in early October each year, but despite its amazing coloring, suffers from one of the worst shortfalls of 'I Do'. Lloyd didn't overcome hidden flaws in his rebloom breeding by automatically inserting either 'Victoria Falls' or 'Matrix' virtues into established lines. More innovation was required for future successes.

This past summer resembled Dante's Inferno in central Virginia. The Richmond area broke every record for heat dating back to 1900. Summer night temperatures hovered around 70° F for July and August.



Photos this page: Lockatell

LEFT TO RIGHT: 'Bethany Claire'; Lockatell Sdlg #20517 (Gate of Heaven X Daughter of Stars); Zurbrigg Sdlg. #NN2 (Clarence X Matrix); 'Just Call Me' (Wilkerson, 2008)

Dry conditions further delayed normal fall flowering by close to a month. The big news was 'Gate of Heaven' mated with either Zurbrigg Sdlg. #TT109 or 20360A-L produced surprising maiden seedling bloom in August and September.

Zurbrigg Sdlg. #TT109 has 'Northward Ho' (Zurbrigg, 1991), 'Rock Star' (Byers, 1991), 'Renown' (Zurbrigg, 1992), 'Mesmerizer' (Byers, 1991) and 'English Cottage' (Zurbrigg, 1976) in its heritage. Zurbrigg Sdlg. #20360A-L features 'Pinkness' (Byers, 1989), 'Godsend' (Byers, 1989), 'Renown', 'Sunny Disposition' (Zurbrigg, 1991) and 'Mesmerizer' in the lineage. Weather conditions surely affected bloomstalk height and flower quality. Seedlings have shown good growth habits, so spring bloom may shed more light on their possible value. Summer and or early fall rebloom may well be traced to the buildup of cool and warm season rebloom genetics found in each seedling. My work indicates the 'I Do' factor in 'Clarence' combined with a strong rebloom seedling or named variety may increase the likelihood of late summer or September flowering under any growing condition in the Mid-Atlantic region. Positive future results could finally realize one of Lloyd Zurbrigg's main breeding goals.

'Just Call Me' (Wilkerson, 2008) was another rebloom sensation this past summer and fall in my garden. The year's second flowering sequence commenced on one of three clumps in early August. Fall flowering continued on each one until a hard frost ended the color parade in early November. The combination of 'Love Lines' X 'Clarence' was a match made in heaven. By using 'Love Lines' (Wilkerson, 2006), Betty found the right pairing to obtain high-quality, early fall-flowering, near-amoenae rebloomers. 'Love Lines' parentage is ('Latest Style' X 'Glistening Icicle').

After 'Victoria Falls' was incorporated into Zurbrigg remount blue lines, the challenge was to capitalize on the Schreiner introduction's coveted modern flower form, sparkling color and warm season rebloom.

'Victoria Falls' would later prove to be a fantastic benefit to succeeding generations of Eastern rebloom development. 'Suky' (Mahan, 1991), 'Renown', 'Again & Again' (Innerst, 1999) and 'Over & Over' (Innerst, 2000) instantly come to mind. Lloyd hedged his bets by using 'Victoria Falls' on both sides of various crosses. The trick was finding a resulting seedling with impeccable flowers and consistent rebloom. In summary, my research suggests a reverse cross of either 'Sugar Blues' offspring or 'Bethany Claire' used with another Zurbrigg seedling containing both 'Victoria Falls' and 'Brother Carl' or 'Immortality' probably created 'Clarence'.

Lloyd did not have the luxury of seeing the majority of second and third generation 'Clarence' offspring to reconstruct its lineage. If he had, I believe he would have been intrigued with my conclusions presented here. The unknown heritage of his best reblooming iris was "a great frustration for Lloyd," Nita Zurbrigg recalls. It robbed him and other rebloom advocates of using 'Clarence' to its fullest potential. Don Spoon and Betty Wilkerson have given us a glimpse to its immense possibilities. Unlike 'Dusky Challenger' (Schreiner's, 1986), "unknown" likely cost Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg the Dykes Medal. It will be up to future enterprising rebloom pollen daubers to realize the careful planning and genius behind a remarkable iris breeding achievement. The time has come to get out the tweezers and give 'Clarence' a second look as an important remount breeding parent.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My heartfelt thanks to Nita Zurbrigg for her fond recollections of my breeding mentor and friend plus rebloom colleague Betty Wilkerson for her Lloyd Zurbrigg memories and valuable time reviewing the material in this article. Please see Clarence Mahan's wonderful tribute to the life of Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg entitled "In Memoriam: Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg" published in the April 2005 issue of the *Bulletin* of The American Iris Society. ♣

Siberian Irises—A Warming Trend

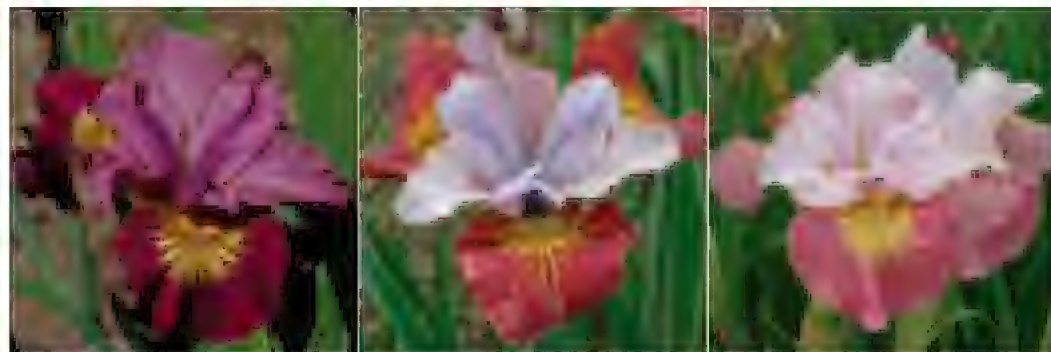
BY MARTY SCHAFER, MASSACHUSETTS

HYBRIDIZING SIBERIANS IS A BLAST THESE DAYS. I STARTED WORKING ON SIBERIANS 25 YEARS AGO BECAUSE I LOVED THEM AS GARDEN PLANTS. The colors were limited to blue-violet and white, which are important colors in the landscape; blue is hard to come by after all. As I learned more about Siberians I found that there were lavenders and wine-reds (mostly dull) and one yellow amoena, 'Butter and Sugar' (1977), a breakthrough from Currier McEwen. Over the last 25 years, Siberian hybridizers have come a long way creating brighter blues, lavenders, wine-reds, and yellows; larger flowers, more substance, width, and ruffling; fancier style arms, and wonderfully decorative signals. Over time, like most hybridizers, we selected lavenders that were just a shade pinker, reds that were just a shade redder, and yellows that were a shade deeper.

Once I saw 'Butter and Sugar', I wanted to explore yellow, to make it deeper and to make selfs (rather than just amoenas) with better branching and stronger plants. I thought that since the best and strongest plants I knew were blue-violet, most of them Bee Warburton's, I would cross 'Butter and Sugar' with them. I looked for sources of yellow other than 'Butter and Sugar'—whites with a golden glow to the signal, creams and other early pale yellows. I was fascinated with 'Snow Prince' (1990), a white *I. sibirica* with lovely yellow buds which was introduced by Sarah Tiffney. The white and yellow in *I. sibirica* is different from the white and yellow in most Siberians (which come from *I. sanguinea*). This approach of crossing blues with yellows was very fruitful and produced several fine yellow introductions in a few generations. At the same time, I began to see some very odd-looking Siberians—eerie combinations of purple and yellow, blue and yellow, red and yellow. It looked like the flowers had two distinct layers of pigment, one over the other, so I called them overlays. I think of them as some color overlaid on yellow. In addition to the eerie ones, there were some much prettier irises which appeared early—such as the pastel blend 'Careless Sally' (1996) — which I realized later were also overlays, just with better blending. Yellow flowers were a wonderful addition to the Siberian garden, but yellow was also a key to creating new colors.

Our best new reds are 'Hot Sketch' (2008), 'Miss Apple' (2009), 'Sugar Rush' (2008), which are all from one cross;

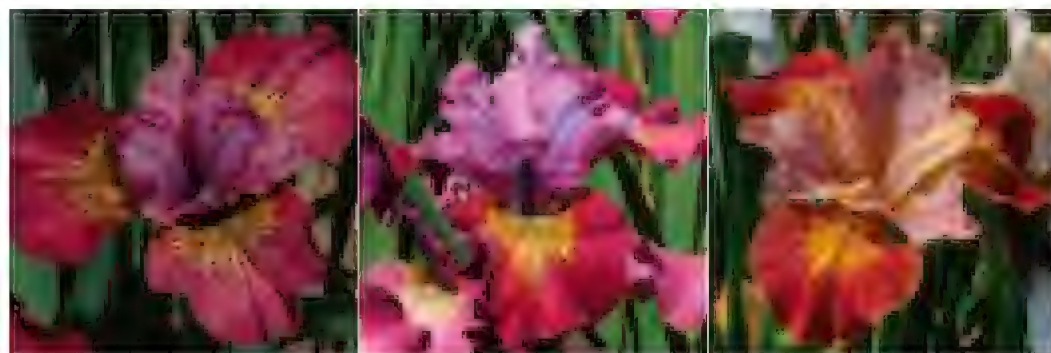
'Pomegranate Punch' (2010) and 'Sweeter Still' (2011). 'Sweeter Still' is a child of 'Sugar Rush', but 'Pomegranate Punch' is from a completely different line. I can't wait to see seedlings of these two families crossed together. We haven't succeeded in getting the violet out of the standards and styles yet, but the falls are dramatically redder. 'Miss Apple', 'Pomegranate Punch' and 'Sweeter Still' are the richest colors. 'Hot Sketch' has so much yellow in it that it is an Indian or brick red and 'Sugar Rush' is the most changeable—sometimes it is a deep watermelon red, most often a lovely watermelon pink, and sometimes a pale washed-out pink. We have only seen a few children of these new reds, but they have great promise. 'Miss Apple' crossed with a tan bitone produced S06-91-10A, a bright red over yellow, heavily speckled flower that looks brilliant red-orange when it first opens. Some of the best children of the new reds that we have seen are better categorized as pinks.



Miss Apple

Hot Sketch

Sugar Rush



Pomegranate Punch

Sweeter Still

S06-91-10A

There is a large group of what we call "pink over yellow", but it is really more like lavender and red-violet and even purple over yellow that appear as pink shades. The key elements are how much yellow is in there, what shade of violet is mixed in, and how well the layers of color are blended. These pink over yellows start with shades of brown—tans, golds, and cocoas. Then there are apricots and peaches, truer pinks, cherry pinks and orchid pinks from light to dark. These flowers can be heavily or sparsely speckled, smooth or blended.

The tans and browns are not colors we were actively looking for, but they come in large numbers when working

with these overlays. The first ones were 'Creme Caramel' (2003) and 'White Amber' (2001) and later 'Humors of Whiskey' (2007), 'Jerry Murphy' (2008) and 'Ginger Twist' (2009). We are so used to having these browns and golds in our field that we would not want to see it without them. Among the newer tan and gold seedlings are many with smoother colors and more sophisticated forms as in S07-100-14 and S07-77-11. Sometimes the flowers have contrasting yellow, purple, blue and even turquoise style arms like S07-77-10 and S03-42E-11. At some point cocoa brown turns into cocoa pink as with 'Cinnamon Sugar' (2010). Which side of the line is it on? Or tan turns into a pale apricot as in S06-40-10A. We are also getting deeper apricot to peach to maybe even orange. This year's intro, 'Cream of Tomato' is an example of that. The flower is small and the form simple, but the color is definitely going in a much warmer direction. The closest to a true pink we have seen so far is S04-33B-50. Its depth of color varies from deep to light, but all versions are clearly pink.

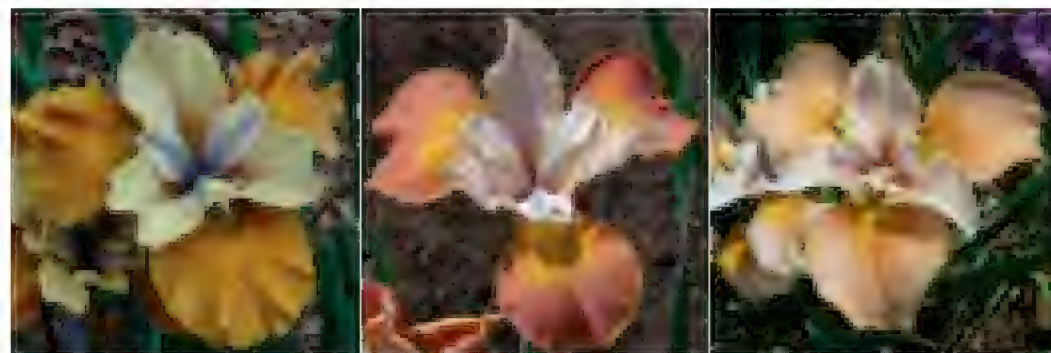
Let me describe a few of the crosses that bloomed in 2010 for the first time and you can see the variety of the colors we are seeing. The S07-78s are from S03-46-12, a ruffled cool cocoa brown, crossed with S04-66B-10, a light apricot bitone with cherry in the signal on its best days. The children are in order of bloom: S07-78-10, a warm cherry orange



S07-100-14

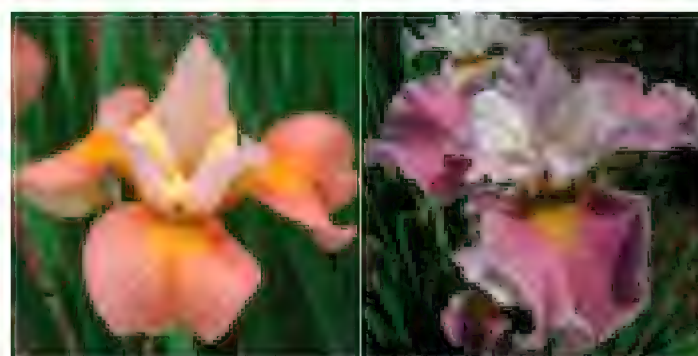
S07-77-11

S07-77-10



S03-42E-11

'Cinnamon Sugar' S06-40-10A



'Cream of Tomato' S04-33B-50

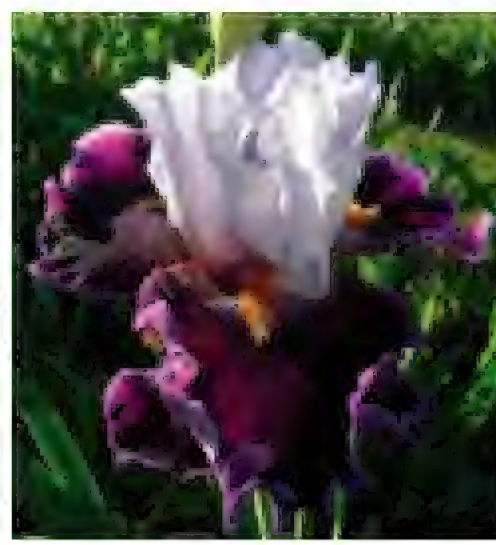
blend with lavender standards and yellow styles arms; S07-78-11, a near orange with yellow-tinted white standards and



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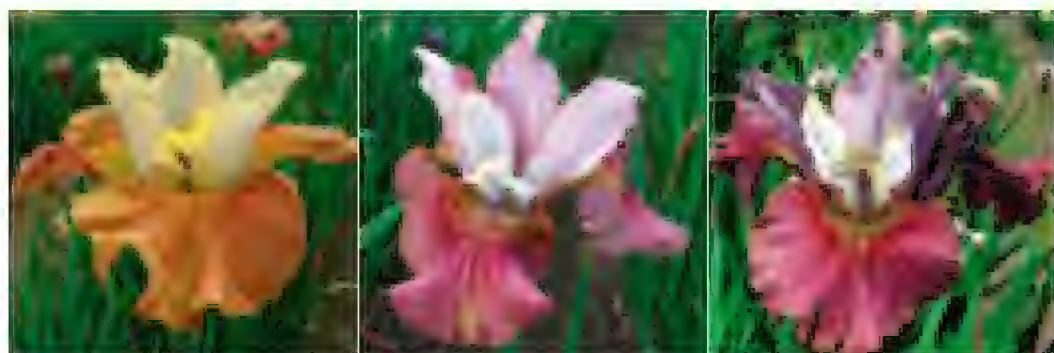
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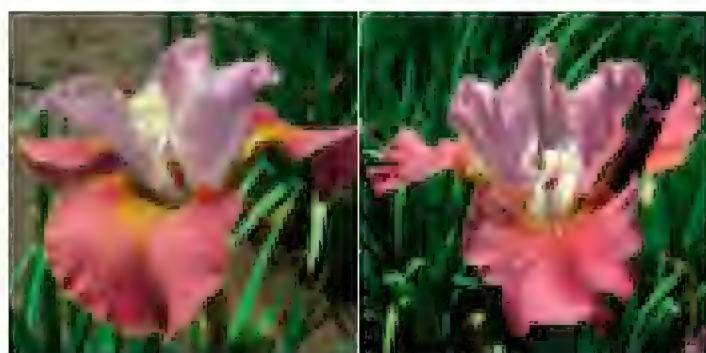
yellow-tipped styles; S07-78-12 and S07-78-13, both with cherry falls, lavender standards and blue-violet, white and cream style arms; and S07-78-14 and S07-78-14A, two pink-red bitones with purple and cream styles. Some of these are not finished flowers and the form will need some work.



S03-46-12 S04-66B-10 S07-78-10

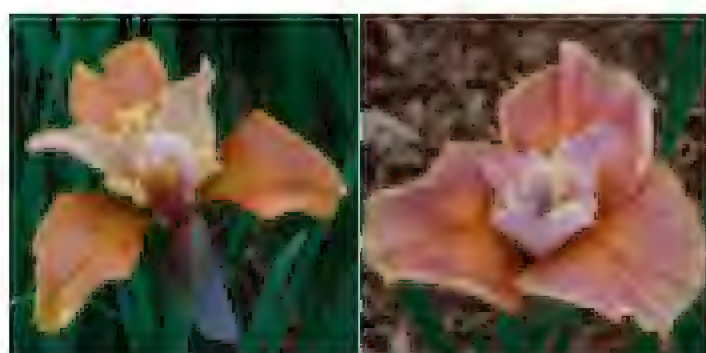


S07-78-11 S07-78-12 S07-78-13



S07-78-14 S07-78-14A

The S07-85s have only two selected members so far, but there are thirty more of them out in the field to bloom for the first time this year. They come from a cross of two peachy apricot seedlings, S04-79B-10 and S03-57-10. The two seedlings that bloomed are, on the surface, completely different. S07-85-10 is an orangey-red bitone with wide, ruffled falls. S07-85-11 is a cool lavender bitone whose falls have a light, warm yellow

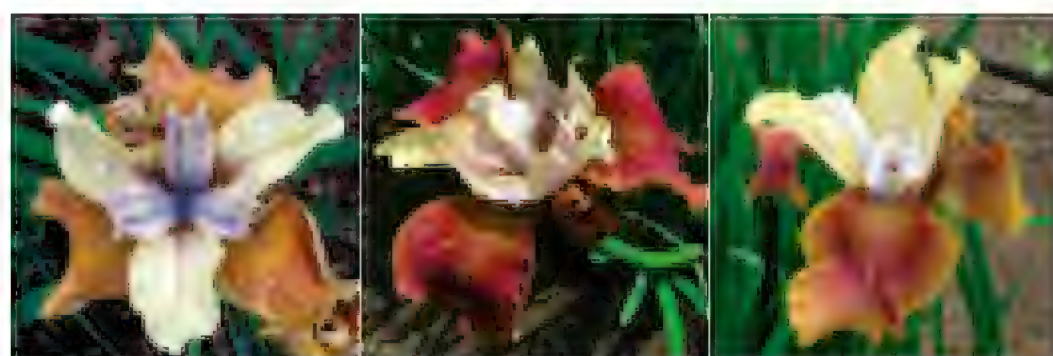


S04-79B-10 S03-57-10



S07-85-10 S07-85-11

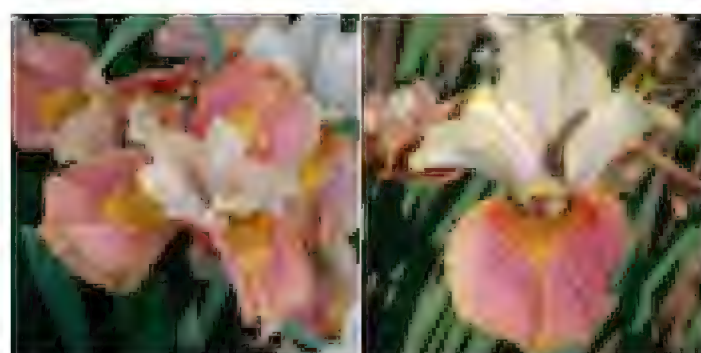
ground that shows at the edges. It also has a heavy brown halo where the signal usually is in a Siberian. Can this color be drawn out onto the falls?



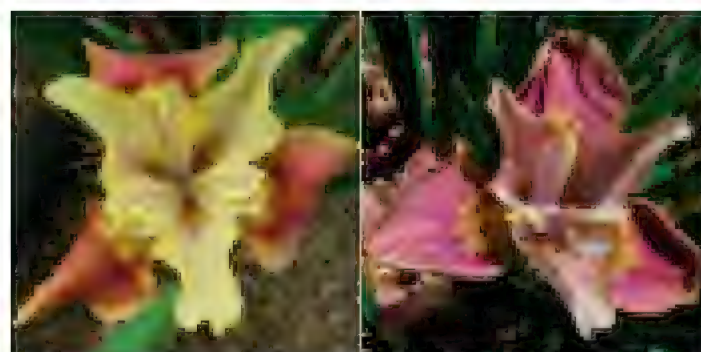
S04-22C-14 S07-118-11 S07-118-12

Another family of seedlings that I liked a lot for their unusual coloring were the S07-118s. They came from a cross of S04-22C-14, a blend of yellow and red-violet (that reminded me of an old bearded variegata like 'Honorable' (Lemón, 1840) and S04-66B-10, the peachy pink shown above. Some of the S07-118s were hit by a late freeze and the flowers were distorted. Among the undamaged ones were S07-118-11 and S07-118-12. Their cold-white style arms were so unusual with the warm coloring of the falls. There are still 12 more seedlings in this cross to bloom.

The S07-100s are another cross with wide variation. They come from a S03-82-50, a warm pink bitone with a slightly darker halo around the signal, crossed to S05-47-3, a warm pink with cream standards and a slight yellow rim around the falls. S07-100-10 has yellow standards and style arms and smooth red-violet blended with yellow falls (and it had terrible form in 2010 which I'm hoping was due to our freeze); S07-100-12 has bright mid-pink falls and light apricot-pink standards); S07-100-13 has mid-pink falls with yellow edges and white standards and styles (and a beautifully formed round and ruffled flower); and the pale cocoa pink S07-100-11 with white standards and yellow styles.



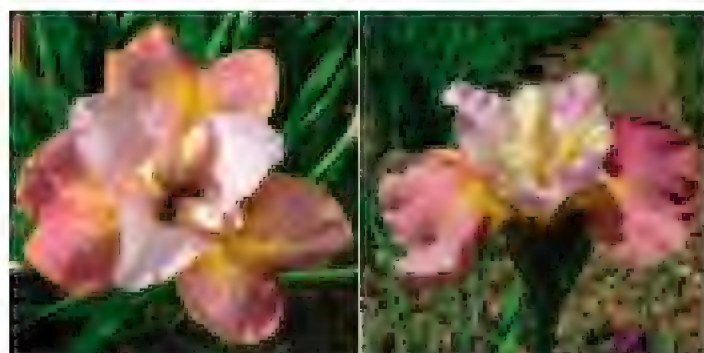
S03-82-50 S05-47-3



S07-100-10 S07-100-12

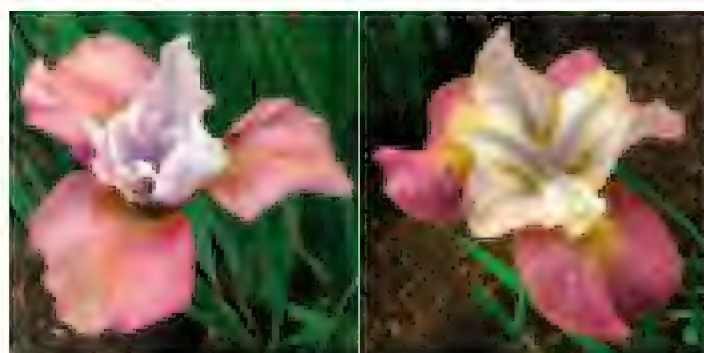
A few other "pinks" that just knocked my socks off are S06-87-14, S07-33-1, S07-143-10 and S08-29-1.

Blue over yellow has been a bit slow to develop. 'Here Be Dragons' was introduced in 2003 and is one of our early overlays of blue and yellow. It is a yellow bitone with lighter standards and darker falls, overlaid with a blue-violet wash and veins on the falls, styles, and heart of the standards. The amount of blue and yellow in the flowers varies depending on weather or temperature. Its name was chosen because the color combination seemed so out there at the time, and we wondered where it might take us.



S06-87-14

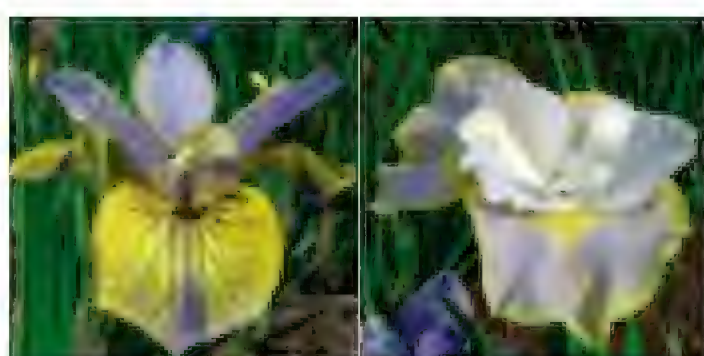
S07-33-1



S07-143-10

S08-29-1

'So Van Gogh' (2005) was a step forward as was its child, 'Tipped In Blue' (2010), though both are extremely small flowered. In 2010 year we finally saw many gorgeous blue overlay seedlings with larger, well formed flowers and many variations on the blue over yellow pattern. S07-62-10 is a great-grandchild of 'Here Be Dragons'. It is a large, wide and luxurious flower with bright yellow buds that open with soft blue standards and falls surrounded by a wide yellow edge. I just about flipped when Jan showed it to me. I never dreamed that a blue over yellow Siberian could look so refined. Now that it has bloomed I can only think that there must be more like it just around the bend. It was twelve years between the appearance of 'Here Be Dragons' and this seedling, or three generations. None of the steps along the way was as interesting as S07-62-10.



'Tipped In Blue'

S07-62-10

KEITH KEPPEL

PO BOX 18154, SALEM, OR 97305

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- SUMMER SHADOW** M 36" (Bold Vision X Gypsy Lord sib) Chrome lemon, fairly wide shaded rusty rose brown fall edge. #02-179B.....**\$50.00**

SMALLER BEARDED

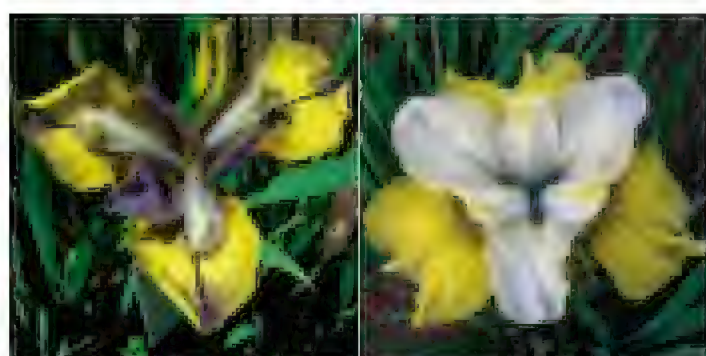
- MINISERIES** E 5" MDB. (Icon X Tingle) Buff apricot, grey violet spot, pinkish red beards. #05-38A**\$15.00**
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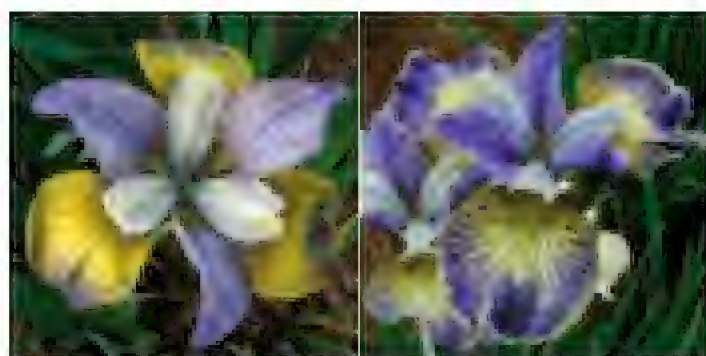
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'Tipped in Blue' was one of my favorite new seedlings a couple of years ago. It was a darling flower with a different character from all of the other small blue over yellow flowers that we were seeing. It was well put together and the particular combination of blue and yellow was so attractive. I thought that I might be able to bring its qualities to larger flowers, so I began to cross it with large- and medium-sized flowers, and last year we saw a lot of first time bloom on these seedlings. Some of the crosses produced several interesting overlays, and it was hard work to pick out the best ones because so many of them were good. Here is a sampling of them. The one I liked the best was S07-41-14. I liked the width of the petals, the intense greenish yellow of the falls and the contrasting pale pearly standards that are lightly flushed with blue-violet. It's from a cross of 'Tipped In Blue' by 'Mission Bay' (2009) (which has large fancy flowers, appearing pure light blue but obviously with some yellow hiding in its genes). The rest of the 'Tipped In Blue' seedlings show ranges of colors from medium to bright yellow, and bits of fairly dark blue to almost no blue. It occurs to me that I should start crossing some of these blue over (brightest) yellows with the reds to see what happens. These might be the next step, the yellows I've been looking for to make the reds better.



S07-30-1

S07-41-14

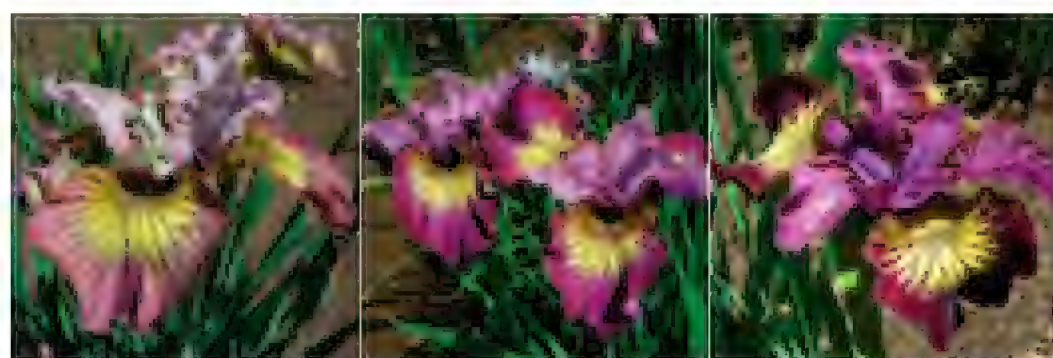


S07-44-11

S07-166-10

One of the byproducts of breeding with overlays of all colors has been some Siberians with very interesting signals. In 2010, some of the best ones came from two very different seedlings—S03-26-2 and S05-25-16. From the first time it opened, we were intrigued by S03-26-2 because it was a *light* red overlaid on light yellow. We had seen combinations of stronger red and yellow before, but not this one. We considered introducing it for a while because of its unique color and profuse blooming habit, but decided not to. The flower is medium sized and

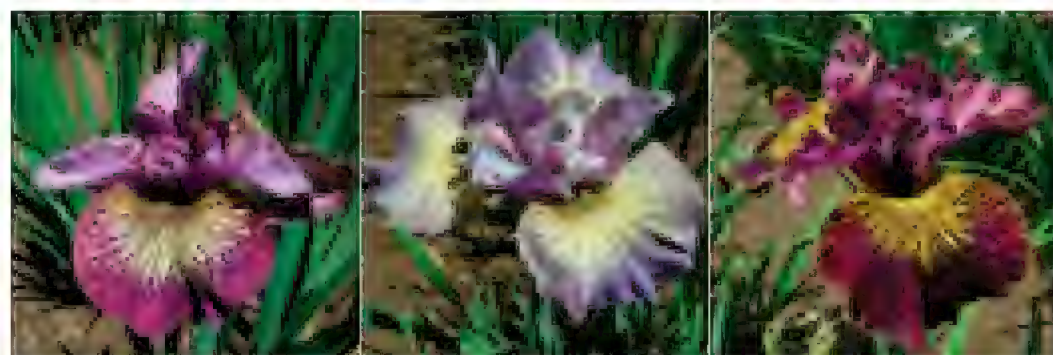
the veined yellow signals are relatively large, covering a quarter of the falls. We had been so focused on its coloring that we did not think much about the signal; however its children told us that we should have. They had large, showy signals - some were yellow like S03-26-2 while others were cream. These are the kind of small differences that mean a lot to a hybridizer. One of the things I've noticed is that the flowers with cream signals are bluer (more red-violet), while the ones with yellow signals are redder. Some of the new flowers had signals with lots of irregular all-over veining, while others had delicate speckling and narrower, neater veining. One seedling from a related cross, S07-113-10 had an additional feature—matching yellow-flecked fall rims. We liked them all.



S03-26-2

S07-26-12

S08-14-2



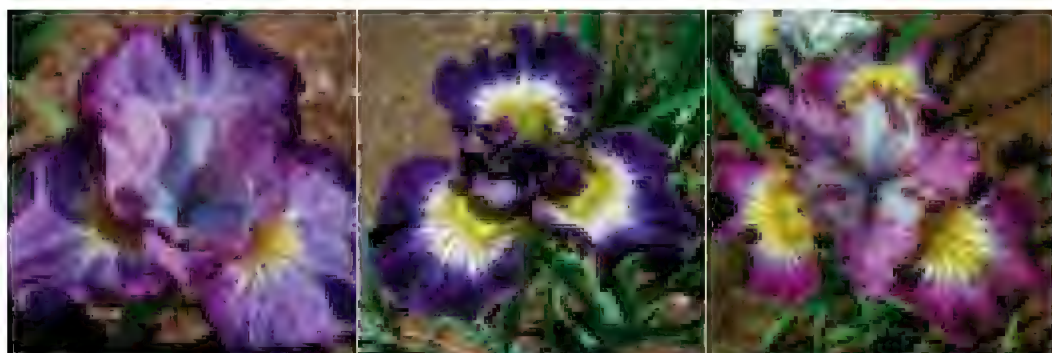
S08-16-2

S08-16-1

S07-113-10

The second parent, S05-25-16, is a large, wide flower with multiple blended colors—purple, red-violet and blue-violet, with turquoise style ribs, and small yellow and white signals veined and spotted lightly. Pairing it with two very different seedlings, we got very different results. Crossing it with a white with heavy yellow signals, we got S08-18-1 which has zones of blue and purple, reminiscent of its parent, but the colors are saturated and contrasting whereas the parent's colors are subtle. The signals are large, bold and white. S08-18-2, a sibling, has mostly mottled red petals and smaller signals that are about evenly divided between yellow and cream. Other interesting features of this seedling are its lightly stitched fall edges and lovely blue style arms edged in red and then stitched in yellow. It makes me wonder how the flower knows how to separate these colors from each other. A half sibling of these two, this time from a large, robust seedling of 'Bonnie Kate' (2006) and 'Lemon Veil' (Bauer/Coble, 2000) is S08-50-1. It is lavender pink and

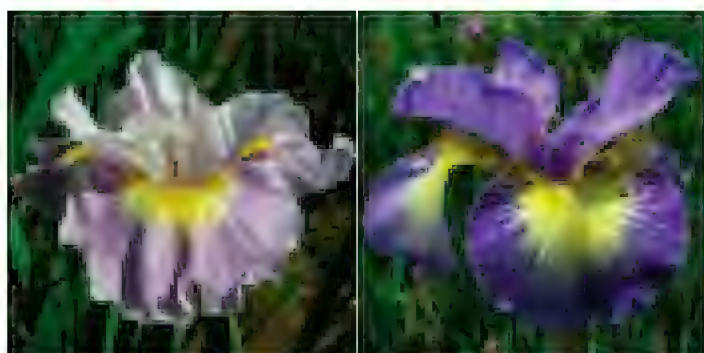
has wide, two-tone yellow signals. The signals are not large, but they are relatively clean and look lovely with all the ruffling of the flower. It had another half-sibling this time from the 'Bonnie Kate' by 'Lemon Veil' side, crossed with a very small-flowered and robust child of 'So Van Gogh'. This seedling, S08-46-1, has the largest, clearest yellow signal that we have seen in a Siberian. It reminds me of *Iris cycloglossa*, a Juno iris. We can't wait to see them again.



S05-25-16

S08-18-1

S08-18-2



S08-50-1

S08-46-1

What was a trickle of new colors has become an explosion. We have all kinds of patterns and blends and color combinations. Our field of seedlings, which was once blue, white and yellow, now includes glowing reds, near oranges, cool and warm pinks, peaches and corals, browns from brassy to golden to light cocoa. Sometimes I have to pinch myself to remember that I am actually referring to Siberians. The next challenge is to make these colors consistent and stable, but for the moment I'm just enjoying the fireworks. ❀

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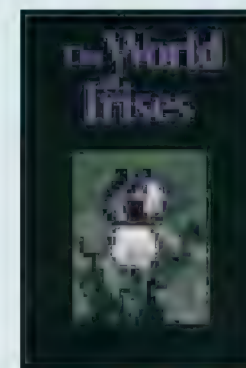
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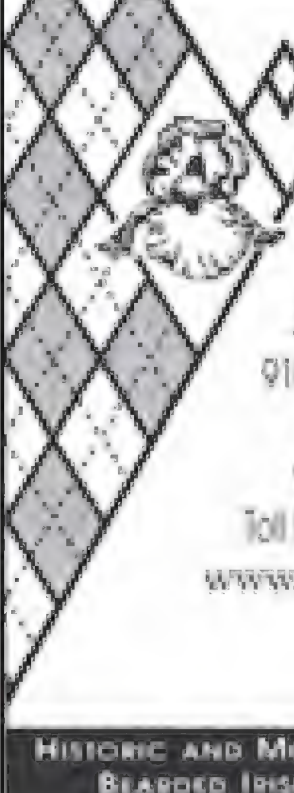
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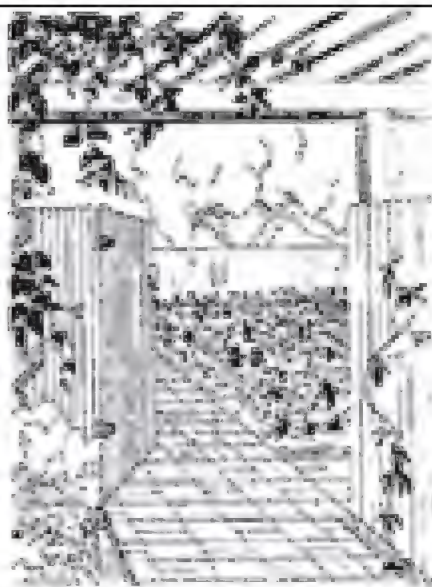
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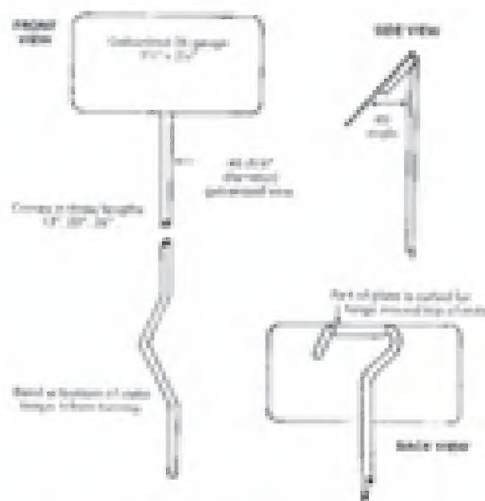
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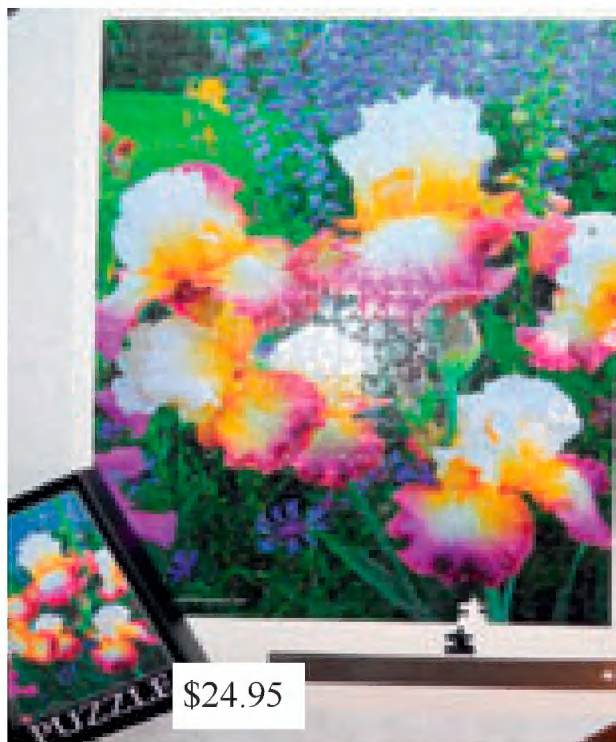
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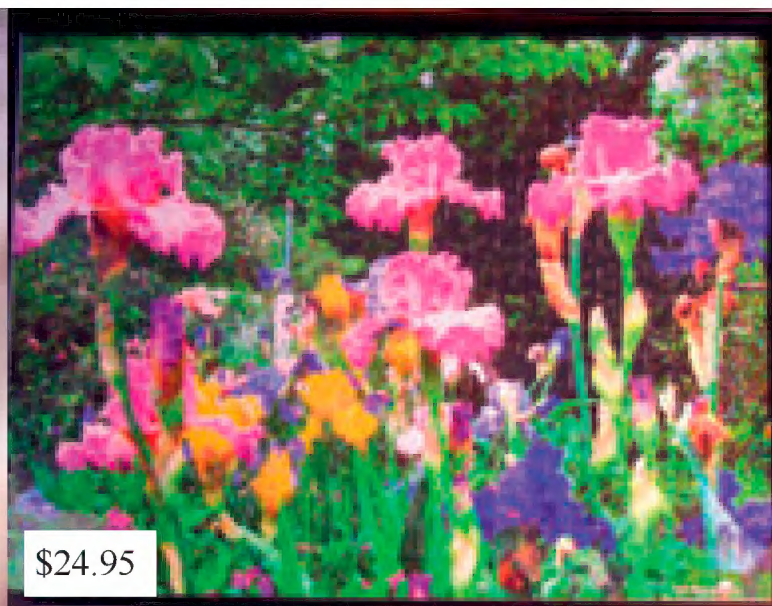


Pictured Above: "Gardens Galore-perennial border" 672 piece puzzle 18"x24"

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Right: "Cottage Garden" 336 Piece, 12"x18"

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